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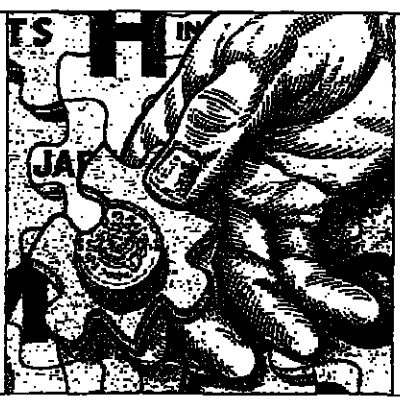

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THE TIMES

No. 65,194

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18 1995

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

Double payment mix-up on gas bills

Direct debit orders of million customers are under review

By George Sivell
Assistant Business Editor

Giordano: facing pay protest by staff

BRITISH GAS yesterday admitted double-charging hundreds of customers who have switched to paying bills by direct debit to qualify for discounts. It is blaming the high street banks for having failed to read instructions.

The company is checking more than a million customer records, with help from the banks, to discover the extent of its double charging. British Gas says it will make instant refunds, a written apology, and pay any bank charges incurred as a result of any error discovered.

The Gas Consumers Council reported hundreds pf complaints from customers who have recently switched their monthly payments from standing order to the new DirectPay debit system. More than a million customers were lured in just six weeks by the promise of a 5 per cent discount if they switched to DirectPay, but many are complaining of bank statements showing that British Gas has deducted both their old standing order and the new direct debit payments.

The slip-up is the latest public relations disaster to strike British Gas in recent months, after Cedric Brown, its chief executive, was granted a 75 per cent pay rise to £475,000, and it was subsequently defended by Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman. This week the Gas Consumers' Council reported a 94 per cent increase in complaints about the company in the three months to January.

Customers who have been double-charged believed that the old standing order payment would have been cancelled automatically when they switched to DirectPay. Indeed, the *Welcome to DirectPay* leaflet says that standing orders will be cancelled "automatically on your behalf when we receive the signed form".

British Gas last night complained that banks had failed to take notice of a line at the bottom of the form asking the bank to cancel the standing order. It said that the form had been redesigned to make the request more prominent. The customer services department at British Gas said that hundreds of customers had telephoned with this problem. One customer said that at the beginning of this month British Gas had taken two direct debit payments and one standing order from his account within four days.

Customers who paid their bills with lump sums in advance to avoid the 8 per cent fuel surcharge have also suffered. They found that after they signed up with DirectPay money was taken from their account for gas already paid for.

British Gas said: "To a certain extent we are victims of our own success in that one million customers applied to switch to DirectPay. Only a small minority of them have been affected. Part of the problem has been the volume of customer applications."

Trouble also mounted for British Gas yesterday on the industrial front. Workers pledged to fight attempts to cut their pay and announced plans for a national demonstration to protest against Mr Brown's pay rise. Staff plan to organise a protest at the company's annual shareholders' meeting in April.

A national conference of workers who belong to Unison also voted to submit pay claims aimed at keeping pace with inflation and delegates representing 30,000 British Gas workers said they would resist any compulsory redundancies among the 25,000 jobs being axed by the company.

Delegates agreed a motion which read: "Unison pickets should concentrate on exposing the double standards and injustice of the huge board pay rises and the proposed salary and conditions cut for staff."

Dave Stirzaker, the union's national officer for the gas industry, said: "British Gas must be the only company in the world to increase the salary of their executives for turning a profit into a loss last year, demoralising their staff and seeing a doubling in the number of complaints from consumers."

Weekend Money, page 33

QC proposes murder law changes after Clegg review

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

SWEEPING changes to the law on murder in the wake of Private Lee Clegg's conviction for killing a Belfast joyrider were recommended yesterday by a government-appointed QC in his review of anti-terrorist laws.

John Rowe, QC, called for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder. This would have allowed Belfast Crown Court to impose a lesser sentence on Clegg.

Mr Rowe said that a defence of excessive force in self-defence, or in the course of duty, should be introduced, which would reduce murder to manslaughter. But the change should not be confined to cases involving members of the armed forces and police, he added.

A soldier in Northern Ireland faced exacting pressures on patrol. "He is trained, as a soldier, to be ready to fight and to be aggressive; but in Northern Ireland, he has at the same time to have in mind his unusual powers under the EPA [Emergency Provisions Act] and he must use them with discretion."

Mr Rowe said: "There was concern in the courts and the army that when a soldier is found guilty, the conviction is for the very grave offence of murder, with a mandatory life sentence, even though he was acting under the pressure of duty and had no evil motive".

But Mr Rowe, appointed last year to review the Emergency Provisions (Northern Ireland) Act 1991, ruled out creating a special offence solely for soldiers, and said that any overhaul must be to the general criminal law.

"It seems to me that both changes in the law are desirable, to allow a discretion as to sentence in case of murder, and to permit the reduction of murder to manslaughter in the circumstances I have mentioned," his report concludes.

His recommendations for reform increase the pressure on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who, in the wake of the public outcry over the Clegg case, was forced to begin a review of the law on murder. Mr Rowe's recommendations back up demands from two senior judges in Northern Ireland.

Sir Brian Hutton, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, said at Clegg's first appeal that many fair-minded citizens would share the view that the law would be much fairer if it had been open to the trial judge to have convicted him of the lesser crime of manslaughter.

Lord Lane, a former Lord Chief Justice, has urged the Government to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder, which he said was too rigid to be applied to the whole range of different kinds of murder.

Mr Rowe, a Crown Court Recorder and former leader of the Northern Circuit and Chairman of the Bar Council, was appointed in 1993 to carry out a fundamental review of the Emergency Provisions Act.

His recommendations will fuel the debate triggered by the Clegg case and the sentencing of two Scots Guardsmen for killing a teenager in north Belfast. Clegg, of the Parachute Regiment, is serving a life sentence in Wakefield prison.

In addition to proposing reform of the murder law, Mr Rowe calls for the Government to drop its power to intern people in Northern Ireland. The Government has argued that it needs powers to cover every eventuality in Northern Ireland.

Exclusion orders, page 2

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IAN STEWART

Will to win: The England captain, Will Carling, wearing his protective gumshield complete with a defiant message for the opposition

Gumshield message for Wales

WILL Carling, England's rugby captain, will sport the latest in personalised equipment — a gumshield with red rose insignia — as he aims to protect one of Britain's best known faces in the heat of battle.

This afternoon he leads England for a record 47th time as they play Wales in Cardiff in the five nations' championship, looking to build on wins over Ireland and France.

The gumshield is approved by Bill Treadwell, the England dentist. "It is very important, not only to prevent dental damage but to act as a cushion to prevent concussion," he says. Made of plastic, a gumshield costs about £30.

All the England players now wear gumshields since Jeremy Guscott, the centre, started the trend. Some prefer nicknames to first names, and Mike Teague, the former England forward, had "Iron Man" to intimidate the opposition.

France play Scotland in Paris in today's other match.

Match previews, pages 47, 48

British troops to serve in Angola

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

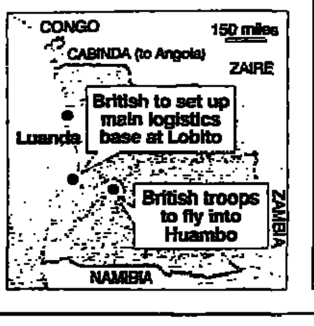
MORE than 500 British soldiers will leave for Angola next month to help to set up a peacekeeping operation in the southern African country torn apart by civil war for nearly 20 years.

The decision to send a logistics battalion with an infantry guard force to the central port of Lobito as part of a United Nations force is to be announced by the Government next week. The troops will be mainly from the Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Contingency plans for troops in Angola have been under examination for weeks, since the UN's formal request to Britain to contribute towards the mission, which could last for three months. A reconnaissance party will leave soon to check the logistics base and to decide on final troop numbers. Ministry of Defence sources said that, although a decision had not officially been made, the battalion of "mixed skill" troops was expected to leave towards the end of next month.

Earlier this month, the UN Security Council voted to send 7,000 troops to implement the ceasefire agreement between the Angolan Government and Unita rebels last November, and to monitor the former confrontation lines.

The greatest danger facing UN troops will come from the 20 million mines buried across the country. In more than 19 years of fighting, at least 450,000 people have died in what has been called the worst civil war in the world.



CONGO
150 miles
CABINDA (to Angola)
ZAIRE
British to set up main logistics base at Lobito
Luanda
British troops to fly into Huambo
ZAMBIA
NAMIBIA

Lamont warns of Delaware option

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

BRITAIN will end up in a similar position to one of the smaller American states unless it abandons the escalator sweeping it towards a federal Europe, Norman Lamont said yesterday as he confronted the Tories with what he saw as the stark reality of closer European integration.

Suggesting that the country was close to the moment of truth in its relations with its continental partners, the former Chancellor renewed his call for the Government to prepare for the possibility of pulling out of the European Union. At next year's intergovernmental conference, Britain should reject a single currency, political integration, and more powers for the European Commission and Parliament, he said. But if it failed to halt the drive towards a federal Europe, it should demand "special arrangements" ensuring looser ties with the Community.

Employing apocalyptic language in a speech at the Oxford Union, Mr Lamont said the future of Britain as a sovereign state was at stake. "If we go much further, the Government of Britain will have more resemblance to the state of Delaware than to a sovereign independent government," he said.

Subsidiarity — handing back powers to national governments — had failed totally, and the leaders of Europe made no secret of their goal of a federal state. "We have signed up to a Europe which has a parliament, a passport, citizenship, a flag, an anthem, and wants to have a single currency, an army and a foreign policy. Who can doubt that the ambition of Europe's politicians is to create a United States of Europe with a federal government?" Mr Lamont attacked the Cabinet's truce over a single currency, accusing the Prime Minister of indecision.

Blair challenge, page 2
Norman Lamont, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Computer chip gang raids Mawhinney's HQ

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

THIEVES broke into the office of Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, and ransacked it, prising open computers apparently to steal their memory chips.

Dozens of computers throughout the 18-storey transport headquarters in Marsham Street, central London, were broken into during the raid, which was discovered by security staff yesterday morning.

A scene of devastation greeted Dr Mawhinney. "A lot of the computers are smashed," one civil servant said.

Officials played down fears that the break-in was the work of anti-motorway demonstrators, but could not rule it out. "We would have expected them to leave a calling card or spray slogans if they had managed to get in," a spokesman said. Motorway protestors who last year scaled scaffolding around the building denied they were involved in yesterday's raid. A spokesman for the M11 protest group said: "This is too sophisticated for us."

Mr Mawhinney ordered an urgent investigation into how the gang evaded tight security. The building is under 24-hour guard by government security officers and is monitored by closed-circuit television. Police investigators yesterday took away film from security cameras in the building; they are believed to have caught the gang of five in the act of wrecking the computers.

Officials said that the computers had been wrenched open and internal parts removed: "The lids had been very expertly and very adroitly twisted off." There was no sign that the raiders had made any attempt on locked filing cabinets and drawers containing commercially sensitive information.

Yesterday, staff who work in the offices affected were given the day off.

The break-in is the latest in a wave of computer chip thefts in London and the South-East. Sophisticated personal computers contain chips worth up to £1,000. They can be easily sold on the black market and are often exported to Eastern Europe. In December, the AA lost £150,000 worth of memory chips when its Basingstoke headquarters was raided.

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Tory MPs fear arguments could engulf Government in full-scale crisis

Blair attacks Major over Downing Street split on Europe

BY JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR last night suggested that the Prime Minister's failure to back his Chancellor on European monetary union could lead to the Government being paralysed.

Mr Blair ditched a speech he had prepared for a meeting in York on Clause Four of Labour's constitution to exploit Cabinet divisions over Europe. "Mr Major's refusal to back his Chancellor on monetary union yesterday was the climax of a defining period for the Conservative Party," said the Labour leader. "It exposed the fault line now running from Number 10 to Number 11 and right through the party. It has momentous consequences for the Government of the country."

The Labour leader's attack came as Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, accused John Major of taking refuge in indecision over a single European currency. "This is an issue of principle, not of tactics or timing," Mr Lamont said in a speech at the Oxford Union. "We will not resolve this issue by deciding to be undecided."

Many ministers and Tory MPs fear the arguments inside their party on Europe could engulf the Government in a full-scale crisis. But yesterday the Prime Minister and Mr Clarke strongly denied suggestions of a rift. Mr Major brushed aside questions about Mr Clarke's position, saying on a tour of Cambridgeshire that he would not waste his time on such "trivial nonsense".

The Chancellor, on a tour of Wales, was clearly exasperated by a barrage of questions about alleged Cabinet disunity, telling reporters to "give it a rest" and accusing the media of resorting to "tedious textual analysis" to sustain their onslaught. "We have run out of ways of making clear that there are not any divisions," Mr Clarke said.

The damage limitation exercise had begun on Thursday night amid horror in Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street at television reports highlighting the Prime Minister's failure to endorse his Chancellor's view that monetary union would not threaten the nation state. After anxious consultations between senior officials, Mr Major secured his Chancellor's backing for a letter in reply to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, saying that they were agreed that a single currency would raise significant "economic and political and constitutional implications".

Yesterday, Mr Clarke pointed to the letter as evidence that he and the Prime Minister were at one on a single currency. "It is exasperating that people pick up words about a policy on something that, if it happens, is not going to happen before 1999."

But, with most Tory MPs judging that Mr Clarke had had to give ground in his tussle with No 10, the Chancellor appeared reluctant to signal a full surrender. When asked if he still believed that a single currency did not imperil the nation state, he said: "We have had all that. The Cabinet has agreed, the Prime Minister and I have always agreed. We have the same views on the whole issue."

Mr Clarke's friends indicated that he had decided to soften his stance because his speech last week had been misinterpreted as meaning that he believed that there were no constitutional implications in a single currency. He was said to accept that there are wider considerations to scrapping the pound, but still believed that the economic ones should take precedence.

Mr Clarke's friends predicted that he will now lower his profile in the belief that the arguments have become too polarised. But his supporters believe his resistance has succeeded in checking the Eurosceptic bandwagon inside the Cabinet and denying the Right a manifesto commitment ruling out a single currency for the life of a parliament.

Sir Leon Brittan, a senior European Commissioner, gave warning in a speech in Cambridge that if Britain stood aside from a single currency, interest rates would be higher.

Norman Lamont in Oxford yesterday before addressing the Oxford Union. He accused John Major of indecision on Europe. Lamont speech, page 1

Mayhew lifts orders banning ten from Ulster

BY RICHARD FORD
AND NICHOLAS WATT

TEN people banned from Northern Ireland had their exclusion orders lifted yesterday after the security services advised the Government that they were no longer a threat.

Next month Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is expected to remove some of the 56 orders that ban people from Northern Ireland and other states from entering Britain. He is likely to make an announcement during the annual Commons debate on the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The exclusion orders have been resented on both sides of the community in Northern Ireland as a form of "internal exile".

The orders lifted yesterday were the responsibility of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary. He told MPs of his decision and of Mr Howard's review in a Commons written reply.

Eight of the ten were also banned from the British mainland. The Northern Ireland Office refused to name any of them, saying that it was against the department's policy to do so.

However, a Sinn Fein councillor from Co Monaghan is known to be among them. Pat Treanor was banned from Northern Ireland and mainland Britain in July last year after being inadvertently injured in an IRA gun attack as he was being driven away for questioning by the RUC. He had been arrested earlier in the day as he showed two Swedish journalists around closed roads on the Fermanagh-Monaghan border.

Politicans in the Irish Republic, who have pressed for an easing of Britain's anti-terrorist legislation, welcomed yesterday's announcement. Dick Spring, the deputy Prime Minister, said that it was a "progressive" step and part of the "peace dividend".

But Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party, said the lifting of the orders was a concession to the IRA. "If these people in the south of Ireland were not allowed to come in here because they were suspect, why suddenly can they get in now before the bombs are surrendered, before the guns are given in, the killing machine dismantled?" he said in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

Last night Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said that Sir Patrick's step was only a gesture and called for all "repressive legislation" to be repealed. "Much more needs to be done by the British," he said.

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Meter rigging was fair, says judge

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A PRIVATISED electricity company was acting legally when it secretly recalibrated a man's meter to run at three times the normal speed to collect money it mistakenly said he owed them, the High Court ruled yesterday.

In a judgment that will set a precedent for all the utility industries, the High Court said that Norweb, the Manchester-based company, should not have been found guilty of unlawful harassment by magistrates last year. Magistrates ordered the company to pay £1,000 in compensation to David Dixon, 58, of Wythenshawe, when he took it to court after he found that it had secretly recalibrated his pre-payment meter.

The bill concerned a property where Mr Dixon had never lived but which had been inhabited by another David Dixon. It took him three weeks before he was able to convince the company it was making a mistake and that he did not owe £677.86.

In the meantime Mr Dixon, who was unemployed and received £33 a week in support, had to pay £11.08 into the electricity meter a week at his home after electricity men had come supposedly to "check the meter". "I had to choose between feeding the meter and feeding myself," he said. "Often I could not afford to eat."

Manchester magistrates agreed that this amounted to unlawful harrassment. Mr Justice Dyson, however, ruled yesterday that the magistrates were wrong because the company did not have a contract with Mr Dixon but only a statutory duty to supply him with electricity.

French call for strike at ferry ports

THE Channel Tunnel and French ferry ports are expected to be blocked from next Thursday by French seamen protesting about a cargo ferry operator that is employing Polish seamen.

According to the seamen's union Meridien Ferries is undercutting its members by employing cheap crew on two freighters between Folkestone and Boulogne. It claims the ships operating between EU ports should employ only French or British union members who would command higher salaries.

The French unions are calling for solidarity strikes at Calais and Dunkirk. Paul Desgris, Meridian's French-based general manager said the company had agreed to the gradual introduction of EU crews once it had become established and won agreement to carry passengers.

M Desgris said: "We are a young company in a competitive market. We will employ French or British sailors as soon as we are able."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail chief to head English Heritage

Chris Green, the highly regarded head of ScotRail who resigned yesterday, has been head-hunted to become chief executive of English Heritage at the end of the month. Mr Green, 51, has been one of British Rail's most outspoken critics of privatisation and his departure has thrown into confusion the Government's plans to sell off the passenger rail services in Scotland.

Opposition parties, trade unions and rail-user bodies said Mr Green's decision was a disaster for the Scottish rail network. Brian Wilson, a Labour spokesman on trade, said it was a tragedy that the rail industry had lost one of its greatest talents at such a crucial point in its history.

Nolan to include peers

The scope of Lord Nolan's committee on standards in public life is to be extended to look at the interests of peers. The inquiry will turn to the House of Lords after its first report is published in May. Peers' interests became an issue after Lord Lester of Herne Hill alleged two weeks ago that four peers had taken cash for putting questions to ministers.

Windsor trespass plan

Civil rights activists are planning a mass trespass on the Queen's Windsor estate tomorrow to protest at the continuing closure to the public of a riverside footpath. Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, said the walk was to show that the Criminal Justice Act was stopping people from moving freely and limiting the right of protest.

Teenage killer gets life

A teenage murderess who stabbed a cab driver through the heart after an adolescence obsessed with violence was jailed for life yesterday at the Old Bailey. Melanie Myers, now 20, of Neasden, northwest London, was attempting a robbery to finance a nightclub outing. Her accomplice Clifton Quartey, 18, was given four years for manslaughter.

Anti-smoking Bills fail

Plans to curb smoking by making health warnings on packets more prominent and by restricting smoking at work were defeated in the Commons yesterday. The Tobacco Products Labelling Bill and the Tobacco Smoking (Public Places) Bill failed to get second readings after too few MPs attended the debate for a vote to take place.

Murder weapon found

Police have found the weapon used in the apparently motiveless killing of Margaret Wilson, a 66-year-old Humberside farmer's wife, as she walked home along a remote country lane near her home at Burton Fleming. The eight-inch knife, originally intended for use in the shoe-making industry, was found near the murder scene.

Sex season criticised

Channel 4 is to screen a season of explicit programmes on sex, the sex industries and sexual tourism called *The Red Light Zone*. The Viewers' and Listeners' Association said the season was a cynical attempt to boost ratings. Stuart Cosgrove, of Channel 4, said the season included explicit material but denied it was sensationalist.

Sunday theatre shows

A West End theatre group is to open on Sundays from April. Mayfair Theatres and Cinemas, which owns eight theatres, negotiated an agreement with the technicians' union Bectu for a 10 per cent pay rise. The group said tourists were surprised they could not see Sunday shows. Talks on a national agreement collapsed in December.

Teacher on drug watch

Sara Jobling, 36, left, a teacher who spent a week working undercover with drug squad officers in Northumbria, quickly put the experience to use when she caught a boy selling cannabis at the Southmoor School, Sutherland, where she teaches biology. The boy was cautioned by police. Mrs Jobling also acts as a health advisor, giving pupils information on the use and abuse of drugs, including alcohol.

Brewery bull shot

An Aberdeen Angus bull named Pushover, which had been shampooed and blow-dried before publicity photographs for Black Bull bitter, had to be shot after charging its owner and bolting. For an hour the bull — chosen for the breed's docility — lurked uncontrolled around Theakston's brewery in Masham, North Yorkshire.

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'I hope that we can put all this behind us and be a happy family, as I have at all times wished'

ALEX GALBRAITH

Ivana Citkovitz will benefit immediately with her sister from trust fund interest

Judge rules granddaughters of marchioness can inherit £15m

By Emma Wilkins

THE High Court yesterday cleared the way for the granddaughters of Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, to inherit her family fortune estimated at £15 million.

Evgenia Sands, 30, who is married to the British actor Julian Sands, and her sister Ivana Citkovitz, 28, will benefit immediately from interest on a trust fund established by their great grandfather, the 1st Earl of Iveagh. Lord Iveagh, who founded the Guinness family brewing fortune, died in 1927 leaving an estimated £200 million to be shared by his children, including Ernest Guinness, Lady Dufferin's father.

Lady Dufferin, 88, who lives in Knightsbridge, west London, won the right to leave her granddaughters her remaining interest in the family trust fund after a three-day hearing in the Chancery Division in London.

Lady Dufferin's wishes, which she executed in a deed in 1991, had been challenged by her daughters, Lady Caroline Lowell and Lady Perdita Blackwood, and daughter-in-law, Lindy, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. Interest on the fund has accrued over four years while the legal action was pending.

Mr Justice Knox rejected the challenge and ruled that Lady Dufferin was entitled to settle the family trust fund in favour of Mrs Sands, a former Max Factor model who lives in Los Angeles, and Miss Citkovitz, who works for the Miramax film company in New York. Legal costs, which some estimates put at £100,000, will be met out of the trust fund.

Lady Dufferin: wishes challenged by daughters

After her victory, Lady Dufferin, who has already settled substantial fortunes on her children, said that she remained deeply sad that her daughters and daughter-in-law had caused the family distress by bringing the action.

In 1948 she surrendered the greater part of the fortune that she would inherit from her father in favour of her children. Her son Sheridan, who died in 1988 from an Aids-related illness, left his widow some £15 million. "I am pleased with the ruling of Mr Justice Knox which reflects exactly my wishes in these matters which I arranged 47 and four years ago respectively," Lady Dufferin said. "However, I am saddened that my two daughters and daughter-in-law should have caused the family such distress and expense in having started this legal action.

"They have said through their lawyers that they will be bound by the ruling, so that brings this unhappy saga to an end. I hope that my children, my daughter-in-law and my grandchildren and I can now put all this behind us and be a happy and united family as I have at all times wished and made known to them all."

ALPHA

Evgenia Sands, a former model living in Los Angeles, with her husband Julian, the British actor

The decision means that Mrs Sands and her sister will inherit capital interests in the trust fund, including the Owl House, an estate in Lamberhurst, Kent, and property in Knightsbridge on Lady Dufferin's death. During her lifetime, they will receive interest from the fund.

Lady Caroline, 63, who was married to Lucian Freud, the artist, Israel Citkovitz, the composer, and latterly Robert Lowell, the American poet, was party to the legal challenge, even though her daughters will benefit.

Lady Perdita, 60, who breeds racehorses in Northern Ireland and Lindy, Lady Dufferin, widow of Sheridan, the 5th marquess who died of an Aids-related illness seven years ago, have no children.

In 1948 Lady Dufferin surrendered the greater part of the fortune she would inherit from her father, Ernest Guinness, in favour of her children, allowing herself an income of £18,000 a year.

☐ In Wednesday's report of the court proceedings, a caption stated incorrectly that Lady Dufferin wished to pass over her daughters and daughter-in-law in favour of her grandchildren. As the story made clear, Lady Dufferin made provisions for her children in 1948 and we apologise for the error.

Robbers cut women's hands in bid for safe keys

By Richard Duce

TWO supermarket assistants are waiting to learn if they have lost the use of their hands after robbers repeatedly cut them in an attempt to obtain keys to the safe.

The women and a less seriously injured male colleague refused to reveal the whereabouts of the keys at a Budgens store on the outskirts of Reading. They were made to lie on the floor as the three raiders slashed at their hands.

The married women, aged 38 and 27, were last night detained in the Royal Berkshire Hospital after surgeons operated to repair severed tendons. Their colleague, aged 28, was discharged after receiving 20 stitches to his hands. None of the victims has been named.

Inspector Martin Elliott of Thames Valley Police said: "It was a horrendous attack. There is still a fear that the two women may lose some form of mobility in their hands."

Budgens has offered a £10,000 reward for information leading to conviction of the robbers in the attack on Tuesday night. Twenty-five police officers are involved in the hunt for the raiders, who escaped empty-handed.

The store was about to close when two white men and a black man burst in, carrying kitchen knives.

Police arrested three men early yesterday but said they still needed information about the raid. The men had not been charged last night.

Hotline puts the police on trail of soccer hooligans

By Andrew Pierce

DETECTIVES are planning a series of raids on the homes of people named on a special telephone hotline as the hooligans who wrecked the football match between England and Ireland.

The hotline, which was set up by the Football Association and the Football Intelligence Unit, was engaged for most of the day yesterday as a team of six officers dealt with a deluge of tip-offs about the identities of the alleged troublemakers.

Two English supporters who were photographed attacking a lone Irish supporter were sentenced to two months in jail yesterday. Photographs of the men punching the Irish supporter appeared in national newspapers for two days running. Stephen Kearns, 23, and Stephen Sloan, 21, both from Birmingham, were released on £100 bail after being given leave to appeal at Dublin District Court. They were arrested by Irish police on Thursday night who recognised them from the photographs. Six other supporters are in custody in Dublin.

An official inquiry into the riot began yesterday led by Thomas Finlay, a former chief justice. Irish police admitted that they had under-estimated British warnings about the extent of the extreme right-wing presence on the terraces at Lansdowne Road.

A statement from the Garda Siochana, the Irish police, conceded yesterday that intelligence on known English hooligans was received from Britain but the Football Association of Ireland insisted that the information had not been relayed to them.

The Irish authorities were further embarrassed when the leader of the Irish police officers' association blamed senior officers for poor strategy, insufficient manning levels, and the presence of trainee police officers in the line of fire. A plea by Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, for the friendly to be replayed by the summer was rejected by the FA and Uefa, the sport's European governing body.

Newspaper and television pictures have pinpointed those who hurled objects on to the pitch. "We are making a major effort to identify those at the heart of the trouble. Many of them were recognisable from photographs or television stills," David Davies, the Football Association's director of public affairs, said.

The football unit, with six full-time officers, is part of the national Criminal Intelligence Service. "We were aware that disorder was planned within the ground," a police spokesman said. "We were providing the Garda with every assistance with intelligence and travel information."

A spokesman for the Garda said: "We had no idea that these people would travel in what appeared to be quite substantial numbers." They had been expecting "perhaps 40 undesirables".

Commander blamed for frigate's grounding

By Dominic Kennedy

ONE of the Royal Navy's rising stars accepted the blame yesterday for ten minutes of error which left the Duke of York's former ship, *HMS Brazen*, stranded on rocks off Chile for four days.

The Type 22 frigate was in danger of sinking with all hands after five attempts to refloat her failed. At one point the crew was encouraged to jump on the deck to try to free her. She was eventually pulled off by a Chilean tug, a court martial heard.

The ship's former captain, Commander Paul Collins, 37, and two junior officers pleaded guilty at the hearing in Portsmouth. Commander Collins was dismissed from his shore job on the staff of the Flag Officer Surface Flotilla and will be found a post elsewhere. Lieutenant Matthew Payne, 25, the pilot, was reprimanded and Lieutenant Sarah Brothwell, 25, the first female officer of the watch to be court martialled, had her guilty plea rejected. The hearing was told that Commander Collins was regarded as a rising young man in the Royal Navy until his ship hit the rocks in September last year. *HMS Brazen* was to negotiate the Canales Patagonicos, a treacherous natural channel on Chile's western coast which at places is uncharted or charted incorrectly.

Commander Paul Collins and Lt Sarah Brothwell, officer of the watch who was found not guilty

At 11.56pm on the rainy night of September 11, Lt Brothwell took charge of the ship as officer of the watch, helped by two inexperienced chart assistants, one on university vacation training. After a series of navigational errors, the ship ran aground shortly after midnight, causing £2 million of damage.

Captain Charles Freeman, captain of the frigate squadron which includes *Brazen*, said: "I would rate Cmdr Collins in the first XI." He said the recovery operation had been brilliant.

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WHAT LITTLE TRAFFIC there is in Lynchburg, Tennessee can be brought to a standstill by a Mallard hen.

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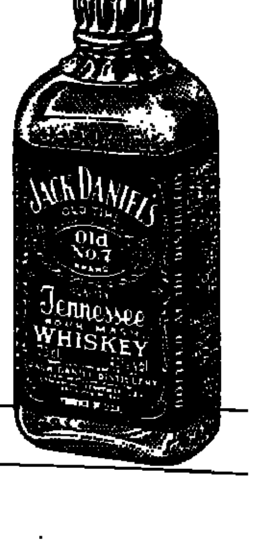
JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



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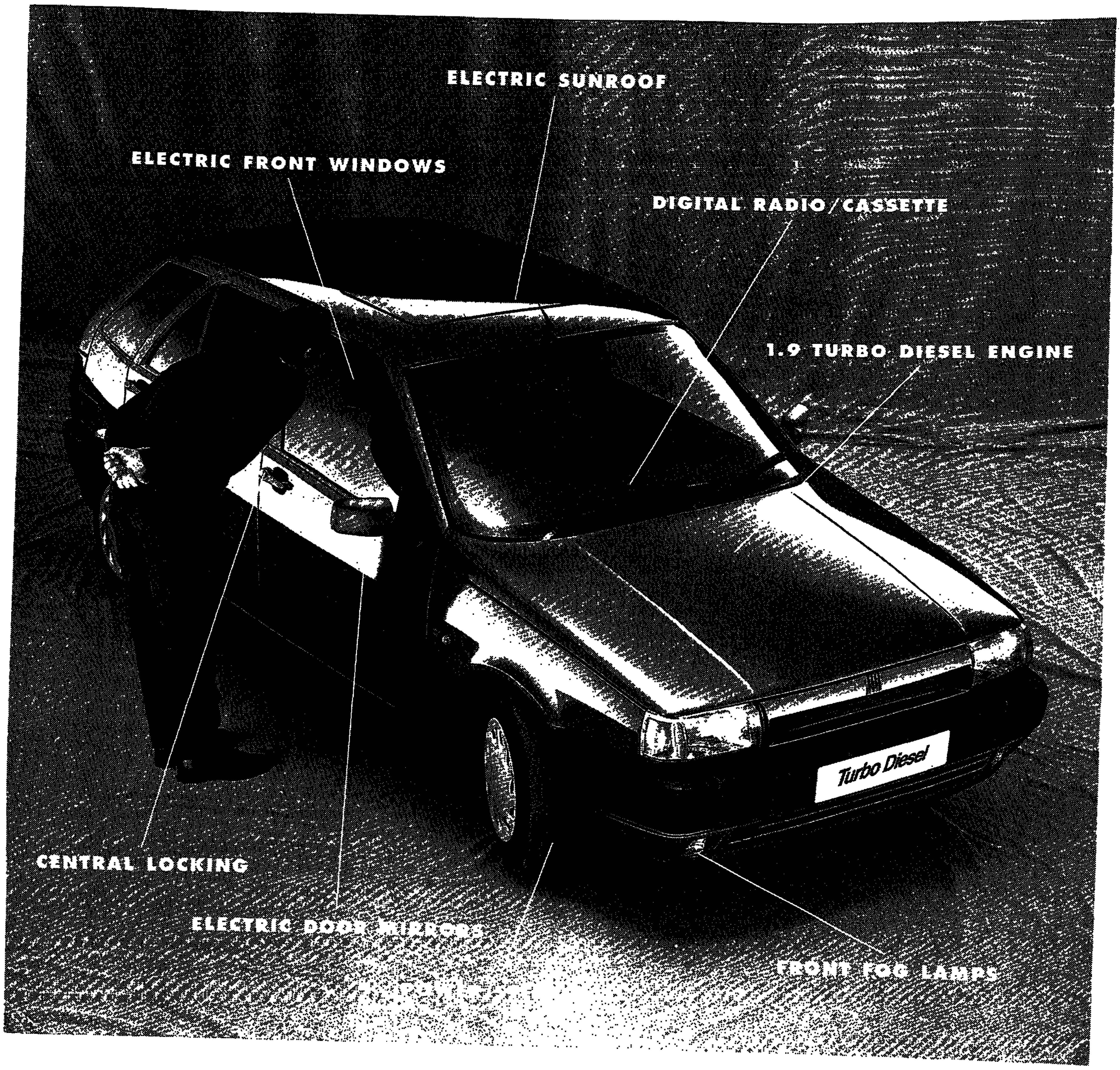

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Gales
river

By Marianne Curphey

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Dealer West

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♦K8
♣3

♠AJ84
♥J
♦J32
♣QJ1072

♠10
♥AQ
♦A9
♣A9

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Pass (2) Pass

Contract: Two Clubs Doubl

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

(1) South on this deal was an expert who should have known better than to overcall on such a poor suit.
(2) East-West were playing Sputnik (take-out) doubles of overcalls so West had no option but to pass Two Clubs and hope his partner would reopen the bidding with a double.

Seeing all four hands it looks as though South was about to receive his well-deserved punishment — going for a 500 penalty when his opponents could not make game. West led the jack of hearts which ran to declarer's queen. Declarer's best chance of making some extra tricks seemed to be to ruff some spades in hand, so at trick two he played a spade which West won with the jack.

West now made the "expert" switch to the jack of diamonds, which went to East's queen and declarer's ace. Declarer

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A haven cut off by the sea from the modern world faces a tidal wave of paperwork

Sark prepares to repel invasion of Euro bureaucrats

■ The island of Sark has rejected the Maastricht treaty, but Brussels still threatens to intrude. Marcus Binney reports

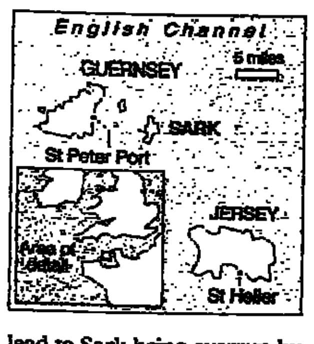
THE self-governing Channel Island of Sark prides itself on being a haven from three evils of the 20th century: income tax, bureaucracy and the motor car. For centuries its parliament, the Chief Pleas, has been able to deal efficiently with administration matters in three sessions a year. It has no full-time civil servants. Now it finds itself awash with Euro paperwork.

Jennifer Cochrane, a member of the Chief Pleas, said: "We are being asked to pass legislation totally inappropriate to our way of life. We have been asked to give free passage to lorries on their way to Bosnia and grant immunity to diplomatic vehicles. We don't have either diplomats or cars, or even tarmac roads."

Of growing concern to residents are the protests in England aimed at stopping movement of live animals. Legislation could have a disastrous effect on the carriage trade which provides the two-square-mile island's main form of transport and is an important source of revenue and employment.

Miss Cochrane said: "The island cannot breed enough horses. We have to import them and of course they are very well looked after."

The islanders are also worried that EC regulations could



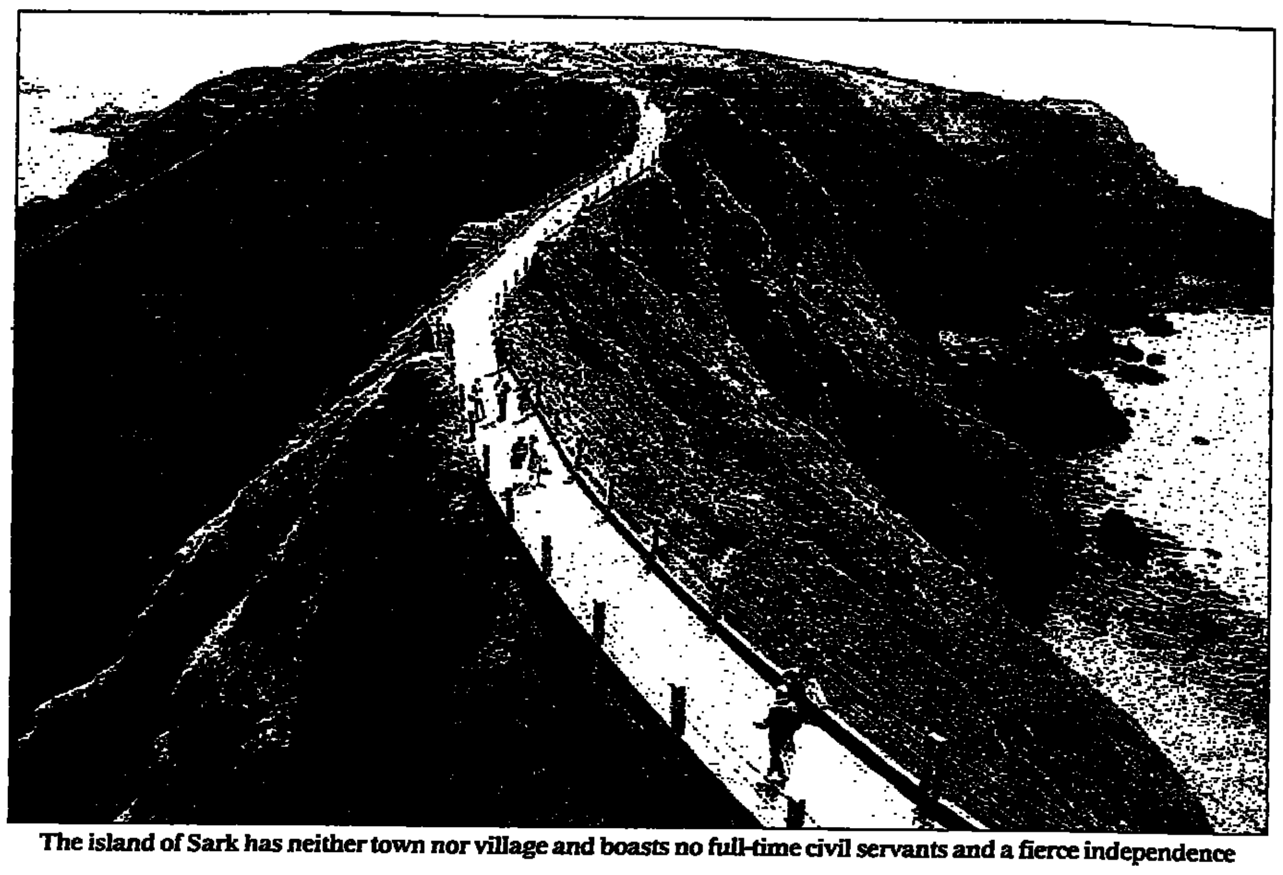
lead to Sark being overrun by immigrants. "Everyone who comes here on holiday says they would like to live here. The island could be overrun with new houses." Miss Cochrane said. At present only long-standing residents are allowed to build new houses and immigrants are restricted to a select number of existing houses which sell at very high prices.

In a letter to *The Times* yesterday, Philip Stokes, Deputy of the People in the Chief Pleas, said: "The island is not eligible for any grants or assistance from the European Union but is being forced to accepte ever-increasing directives from Brussels which we neither want nor need and certainly cannot afford."

The population in winter is just under 550, although in summer up to 1,000 day visitors can arrive if the weather is good. There is no airstrip, unlike on the other Channel Islands, and in winter the only contact with the outside world is by daily boat.

Sark has three schools, each with one class. The islanders take out their own private health insurance and recently rebelled against the high charges at Guernsey's hospital — £365 a day — and elected to go to Jersey. There is no income tax, but a modest property tax and a "guestimated" wealth tax are levied by the island's cabinet, the Douzine.

The current dissatisfaction is a reaction not only against Brussels, but also what is seen as undue interference from Guernsey. Elizabeth Perree, an islander, said: "We declared UDI once before in 1960 when the Dame wanted to hand over the administration to Guernsey. We determined to keep our own parliament and succeeded."



The island of Sark has neither town nor village and boasts no full-time civil servants and a fierce independence

David Melling, a deputy of the people in the Chief Pleas; said: "Channel Islanders don't have the right to live or work in EC countries, so why should they be able to come here. At present only British passport holders can buy any of the 42 tenements which bring a seat in the island's parliament. But under Brussels regulations people from the Continent could come in and buy up the island."

Michael Beaumont, the island's Seigneur, who enjoys similar rights to a medieval feudal baron, said: "It's the thin end of the wedge. If we are not careful we will have to let anyone who wants to settle here."

Sark is an island with a history of looking after itself. During the Second World War, the Dame of Sark was renowned for her imperious treatment of the German occupiers. Dame Sybil spoke fluent German, knew about German etiquette and insisted that Germans clicked their heels and saluted her.

The Dame's influence made life on Sark less oppressive than on the other Channel Islands. The Germans, suspicious of the islanders, forbade them from speaking in their Norman patois, demanding English or German. Dame Sybil would have none of it.

In the 16th century, Rabelais described Sark as an island of crooks, thieves, brigands and assassins. In 1565 a Jerseyman, Helier de Carteret, obtained letters patent from Queen Elizabeth I to settle the island with 42 men capable of bearing arms in defence of the island. The 42 tenements he created to this day bring a seat in the Chief Pleas.

Beaumont: warns of the thin end of the wedge

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

Second Degree, the 28-page guide to postgraduate course vacancies — plus, in Times Sport, up to 30 per cent off tickets to Cheltenham, on **Monday**

Pick up an audio book for 20p, details on **Tuesday**

Designer collections that can be delivered to your door, on **Wednesday**

Your chance to win a holiday for two in Barbados in our 12-page Penguin books supplement, on **Thursday**

The Bernard Levin column and the Valerie Grove interview, on **Friday**

Gales cause havoc on river, roads and rail

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

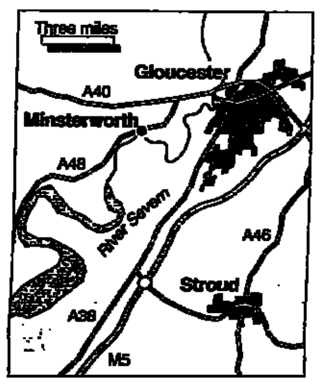
GALES and exceptionally high tides brought flooding to towns and villages along the Severn yesterday. In the Midlands hundreds of rail passengers were stranded for over eight hours without food or water after power lines were brought down.

Scores of people were trapped after the Severn burst its banks and a 1.9 metre Severn Bore tidal wave engulfed homes. The bore, the highest in living memory, had been whipped up by gales in the Bristol Channel.

Road commuters had long delays after fallen trees and cables blocked roads in many parts of southern England and Wales.

Services on the InterCity West Coast main line between London Euston and the North West were disrupted all yesterday as engineers struggled to repair overhead cables that had been blown down.

Eight trains, each capable of carrying 500 people, had left London Euston for the North West between 7pm and 11pm on Thursday but were held up



near Rugby after cables snagged on both the main and subsidiary routes. All failed to arrive before dawn.

British Rail said the longest delay was on the 7.15pm Euston to Wolverhampton service, which took eight hours and 20 minutes to reach its destination. A diesel engine was sent to rescue the stricken train but was caught in a logjam of seven other trains.

Passengers, mostly commuters who had to return to London the next day, sat for hours in stationary carriages but were not allowed off the train. BR arranged taxis for those who missed connections.

One traveller on the 7.15, Christopher Griffin, 53, a film producer from Stratford-upon-Avon, said: "We were pretty jovial and full of the Dunkirk spirit at first. But it did wear a bit thin after eight hours. The power was off so we were getting cold and the food soon ran out. People started to get very worked up."

A spokesman for InterCity said: "It must have been a terrible experience. A full refund is being offered." Railtrack has launched a full investigation.

Rabinder Minhas, 31, said his trip was "a journey from hell". He added: "Ten hours for a two-hour journey is ridiculous."

Ian Rose, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, said: "No one made an attempt to get food to us. All the passengers were rationing what they had."

Sam Evans, 20, a journalism student whose journey to Preston took over eight hours, said: "There was very little information about what was happening and we were left to work it out for ourselves."

Forecast, page 24

♣♠ SHEEHAN on BRIDGE ♥♦

Dealer West **North-South game**

North:
♠7632
♥10874
♦K865
♣3

West:
♠AJ84
♥J
♦J32
♣QJ1072

East:
♠KQ95
♥K9542
♦Q10
♣K4

South:
♠10
♥AQ6
♦A974
♣A9865

W	N	E	S
—	—	1♥	2♣ (1)
Pass (2)	Pass	Dble	All pass

Contract: Two Clubs Doubled, by East. Opening lead: ♥J

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) South on this deal was an expert who should have known better than to overcall on such a poor suit.
(2) East-West were playing Sputnik (take-out) doubles of overcalls so West had no option but to pass Two Clubs and hope his partner would reopen the bidding with a double.

Seeing all four hands it looks as though South was about to receive his well-deserved punishment — going for a 500 penalty when his opponents could not make game. West led the jack of hearts which ran to declarer's queen. Declarer's best chance of making some extra tricks seemed to be to ruff some spades in hand, so at trick two he played a spade which West won with the jack.

West now made the "expert" switch to the jack of diamonds, which went to East's queen and declarer's ace. Declarer played a low trump which West won with the seven and continued with another spade. Declarer ruffed in hand, cashed the ace of clubs dropping East's king and now had to guess the diamond position. In the event he played a diamond to the eight. East won his ten and returned a spade. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the king of diamonds and ruffed another spade to bring his trick total to seven and a loss of only 200 points.

Declarer had done quite well but he should really have made his contract. He knew that East had five hearts and four spades and, presumably, two clubs. Had West started with J 10 x of diamonds, East would not have played the queen on West's jack. Declarer should have played a diamond to the king, felling East's ten, ruffed a spade, now a diamond to the eight and a further spade ruff would have brought his trick total to eight.

All-night ordeal on InterCity express

BY KEVIN EASON

IT HAD to be a mistake to assume that the daily ordeal of commuting by rail couldn't possibly get any worse.

I arrived at Euston at 10pm on Thursday for what should have been a one-hour journey to Rugby. Hardly any services were running and the curiously named information boards offered nothing but: "Train not Ready." The station concourse was awash with lost souls.

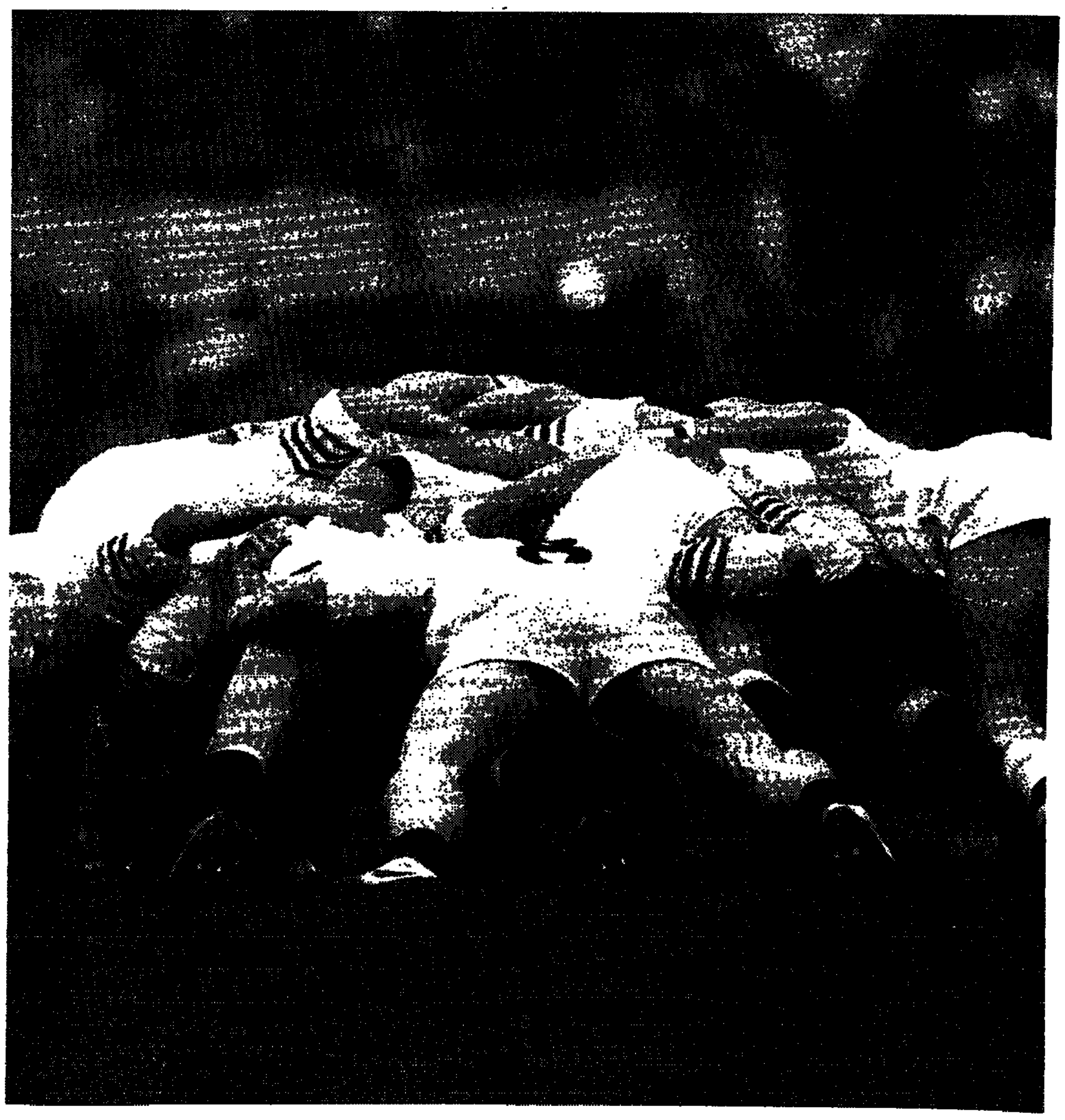
But the man at the ticket office didn't recommend a night in a hotel rather than the logjam on the West Coast line. He just took my money. So when the doors opened on the 23.10pm to Wolverhampton I jumped aboard expecting a short haul home on the InterCity express. Express? It didn't leave until 12.10am. By 1am I was staring out at a darkened platform in Buckinghamshire, where we remained for two hours.

It would not have been so bad had there been a buffet car. Sir Ranulph Fiennes has the sense to haul supplies on his expeditions; British Rail could not even offer tea.

By 4am we had reached Milton Keynes, where we were joined by the passengers of a train that had left London two hours before us. At 4.55am we were on our way but by then I couldn't have cared less. I arrived home at 6.30am, in time for a nap before returning to London on the 9.17am.

THE PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION:

Knowing what you're looking for is not the same as being able to lay your hands on it.



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Scots rugby fans touch down in Paris to celebrate the Auld Alliance

Mary: married the Dauphin

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

WHISKY tumblers will clink with claret glasses today as Scots in Paris for the France-Scotland rugby match celebrate the 700th anniversary of the "Auld Alliance".

The rugby match is the first in a series of cultural and sporting events planned this year designed to remind the French of a friendship with the Scots which stretches back to 1295.

The BBC is planning a series of television programmes in Scotland to celebrate the alliance and the link will continue next month with the launch of the Scottish Tourist Board's first advertising campaign in France. Posters on the Métro will declare *Entre légende et réalité vous êtes dans la vraie Ecosse.*

So far £70,000 has been earmarked by Edinburgh District Council for the Franco-Scottish celebrations but applications have been made to the National Lottery and the European Commission for help in funding the events.

The highlight of the year will be a concert by the Scottish vocal ensemble Cappella Nova in Edinburgh's Greyfriars Church in the presence of the French Ambassador. The ensemble will recreate the music played at the 1558 wedding of Mary Queen of Scots to François, Dauphin of France.

These days the Auld Alliance is expressed through cultural and sporting exchanges but Scots have not forgotten the political significance of having France as an ally against the common enemy, England. In France, however, the alliance is all but forgotten.

The original agreement was signed by the Scottish king John Balliol and the French monarch Philip IV in 1295. There may have been earlier agreements but that was the first documentary evidence of an offensive and defensive alliance, designed to scupper Edward I of England. It was renewed by Robert I in 1326 and became the mutually accepted response to English aggression aimed at either party. The agreement was subsequently renewed on at least six occasions.

A year after the alliance was renewed in 1512, the Scots were defeated at the Battle of Flodden, when they were rallying to the defence of the French against Henry VIII. The overwhelming defeat, which claimed the life of the Scots king James IV, led to many Scots questioning the alliance.

But the marriage of James V in Notre Dame Cathedral on New Year's Day 1537 to Madeleine de Valois, the daughter of Francis I of France, and after her death, to Mary of Guise, strengthened the connection. It reached its height with the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the dauphin.

The Treaty of Haddington in 1548 made France the guarantor of Scottish liberty and installed French troops on Scottish soil. The alliance died with Mary Queen of Scots as her son ascended the English throne, but its influence remains in Scottish architecture, law and language.

Many Scots words such as gigot and ashet have French roots. Long after the alliance ended Scots soldiers continued to seek their fortunes in France, and Scots lawyers learnt to imbibe claret while learning of the common antecedents of some Scots and French laws.

The Auld Alliance has entered Scottish parlance and is still fondly remembered by Scots, who prefer to sport an Ecosse sticker rather than GB on their cars when travelling abroad. In France the alliance means little. Stéphan Crouzat, director of the French Institute in Edinburgh, says: "The French are not familiar with the alliance in the way the Scots are."

Match preview, page 47

Procter and Gamble shares fall

Anti-ageing creams withdrawn after irritation complaints

By Lin Jenkins

SUPERMARKETS and chemists removed two face creams from their shelves yesterday after complaints that they had caused eye irritations.

Procter and Gamble, the American group which makes both Oil of Ulay New Skin Discovery and Max Factor Active Response Cream, sought to play down the impact of the suspended sales after its shares fell 12.5 cents to $65.125 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The company, which manufactures skincare products for the British market in Nenagh, Co Tipperary, claimed that the cost of withdrawing the creams "will not have a material impact on earnings". Both are "niche" products aimed at women over 30 and account for less than 5 per cent of the lines' sales, the company said.

The skincare market is worth £446m a year

The creams were removed after reports of blurred vision and watery or tingling eyes among about 70 middle-aged and elderly women. Damage was neither serious nor lasting.

Procter and Gamble insisted that the creams were safe provided women heeded prominent warning labels that the products should not be used near the eyes. But reports of adverse reactions continued and the creams were withdrawn as a precaution.

New Skin Recovery and Active Response Cream vary from most face creams in that they use a chemical exfoliant, beta hydroxy acid, rather than alpha hydroxy acids more commonly used in moisturising creams. Marion Kelly, director-general of the Cosmetics, Toiletries and Perfumers Association, said: "There is some confusion when people talk about hydroxy acids, but the ones causing the problems are not in the great majority.

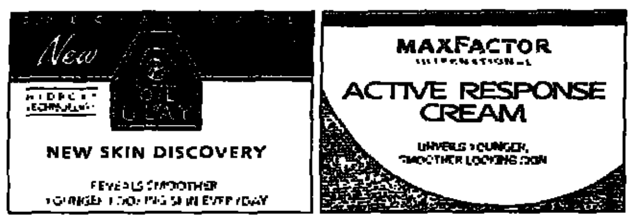
"These anti-ageing creams were developed from exfoliants used to treat people with acne. They were found to leave the skin looking better so were then positioned for the whole market." Scientists are developing a new formula that does not irritate the eyes. Other Max Factor and Oil of Ulay skincare products are not affected.

The British skincare market is worth more than £446 million and is growing by 6 per cent a year. According to figures published last year Oil of Ulay was the best-selling moisturiser, followed by Body Shop, Avon, Boots, Johnson's Baby Lotion and Clinique.

Skincare products accounted for 14 per cent of all cosmetics and toiletries sales in 1992. Half of those were facial products, including moisturisers, cleansers, toners, facial scrubs and face masks.

Facial moisturisers are the biggest sellers, with an annual retail value of £368 million, with hand and body moisturisers next at £60 million a year. Most are sold through chemists, with Boots accounting for more than 30 per cent of sales.

However, supermarkets account for a growing proportion, and in the past three years have increased their share of the market by nearly 15 per cent.



New
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REVEALS SMOOTHER YOUNGER LOOKING SKIN EVERYDAY
MAXFACTOR
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ACTIVE RESPONSE CREAM
UNVEILS YOUNGER, SMOOTHER LOOKING SKIN

The salicylic acid in both creams exposes fresh skin

Doctor says reaction was 'pure bad luck'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE ingredient responsible for eye irritation in the skin creams which have been withdrawn is widely used by dermatologists.

Salicylic acid loosens the top layer of skin and exposes fresh skin with the aim of achieving a rejuvenating effect. Like other acids used in skin creams, salicylic acid is a hydroxy acid containing both hydroxyl and carboxyl groups.

"We use bucket-loads of the stuff," said Dr Ian White, a consultant at St John's Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital in London. "It's used for removing warts and verrucas, for treating acne, and it's found in shampoos as well. We've had no problems whatsoever with it."

Dr White considers Procter & Gamble to have been "very unlucky" to have had problems with the 2 per cent solution of salicylic acid they used in their Oil of Ulay New Skin Discovery and Max Factor Active Response Cream. "They did every test they could have done," he said. "They tested it on animals, and in every other way they could think of. They did their damndest to make sure it was harmless, but none of the tests predicted the problems. It was a fluke — pure bad luck."

RICHARD RAYNER

Madeleine Smith: praised for "grit and bravery" after being shot by ex-fiancé

Jilted fiancé jailed for shooting

A STABLE lad who blasted his ex-fiancée in the leg with a shotgun then kept her hostage for six hours was jailed for ten years yesterday.

A judge at Teesside Crown Court used special powers to increase the sentence on Barry Pearson, 33, after telling him: "It was only when she told you she was bleeding to death that you panicked, put your own skin before other considerations and phoned the police."

Judge Fox paid tribute to Pearson's victim, Madeleine Smith, a young jockey who has fought to ride again despite her terrible injury. "She has shown remarkable grit and bravery," he said. "However, what may remain of her hopes as a professional jockey, one cannot be at all optimistic about."

Pearson: panicked

The court was told that after Miss Smith, of Osbaldwick, North Yorkshire, broke off their engagement they continued to work together at a stables in Leicestershire. She left when he failed to accept the separation and turned violent.

Later they met at layby for Pearson to hand over her belongings, but he shot her then drove her 130 miles to the flat they used to share. He called the police after ignoring her pleas for medical treatment for six hours. Miss Smith spent 18 days in hospital and had four operations.

Pearson, of Grantham in Lincolnshire, was convicted last month of carrying a firearm, kidnapping, and wounding. He was jailed for two, three and five years, to be served consecutively.

Theatres challenge Dorrell to show that he cares

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

LEADING figures in British drama are challenging Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, to show that he cares about the theatre.

Mr Dorrell, who has been widely criticised for an apparent lack of interest in his brief, was recently asked by a parliamentary select committee to demonstrate concern for the cinema. He admitted he could not remember when he last saw a film.

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Corin Redgrave, the actor-director, and Edward Bond, the playwright, are joining hundreds of theatre workers at a rally in Lancaster today. Mr Hedley yesterday accused the Government of not investing in drama. He said the theatre profession did not feel that Mr Dorrell was fighting for the arts or showing any understanding that regional theatre was in crisis.

The rally has been organised by Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. Tonight marks the final production of its theatre education company because of cuts in government grant. Further cuts are awaited from Lancashire City Council and North West Regional Arts Board.

Mr Hedley said the rally would highlight that the situation had deteriorated to desperate levels. "Two thirds of our regional repertory companies, of which there are 41, are in trouble." The Cheltenham Everyman and Bristol Old Vic had announced that because of huge deficits they would stage co-productions. "This week, it has emerged that Cheltenham can't even afford to do that. They're making 11 of their staff redundant, will have to stop producing plays and become a touring receiving house."

A Heritage Department spokesman, asked about Mr Dorrell's commitment to the theatre, pointed to an extra £5 million from the Treasury, more business sponsorship and a potential £200 million from the National Lottery for the arts. "If that isn't standing for the theatre, I don't know what is."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver who killed friend gets two years

A car dealer who had never held a driving licence but had been banned from the road ten times killed his best friend when his car hit a tree, Reading Crown Court was told yesterday.

John Butler, who was three times the legal alcohol limit, was pulled from his Peugeot 205 GTi but the car burst into flames, killing Andrew White, 24. Butler, 28, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, was jailed for two years and banned from driving for six years.

Aids murderer dies in prison

Michael Lupo, who murdered four London homosexuals in an eight-week spree in 1986 in revenge for contracting HIV, has died from an Aids-related illness. He was jailed for life by the Old Bailey after admitting the killings and two attempted murders. The former fashion boutique owner died in the hospital wing of Frankland Prison, Co Durham.

Pope receives Fr Leonard

The Pope has given a private audience to Father Graham Leonard, 73, the retired Anglican Bishop of London, in the Vatican. Fr Leonard was the most senior clergyman opposed to the ordination of women as priests to have left the Church of England for the Roman Catholic Church over the issue. He was ordained a Catholic priest last year.

Phantom fire

A fire under the stage halted the hit show *Phantom of the Opera* in London on Thursday night. Sparks had ignited stored props. The safety curtain came down on the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical but the show went on after a half-hour break.

Radiation case

Amersham International was ordered to pay more than £18,000 in costs and a fine by magistrates at Didcot, Oxfordshire, after a technician was exposed to potentially lethal radiation at the medical diagnostics group's radiography plant at Harwell.

Not shipshape

Twenty six foreign ships were detained in British ports last month by the Marine Safety Agency, including four Bulgarian fish factory ships with cockroach infestations. A Panamanian chemical tanker whose main steering gear had failed was also held.

Firecrews see red

Firecrews answering 999 calls in the West Midlands have been told to stop at red traffic lights before checking if it is clear to cross. Previously they would only slow down. Officials say it will be safer and add "only seconds" to call-out times.

Chairman ban

John Featherstone, 61, chairman of Sunderland Football Club, was banned from driving for 17 months and fined £630 by magistrates at Bedale, North Yorkshire, for driving with excess alcohol. He claimed he had drunk brandy after an accident.

Heart help

Ten per cent of the population of the Orkney isle of Shapinsay, where heart attacks are responsible for 36 per cent of deaths, is now proficient in the life-saving technique of heart resuscitation, thanks to John Brooke, the island's new doctor.

Small town plays host to Big Frank's heavyweight hopes

By Michael Horsnell

THE "cattle shed" at Shepton Mallet may not trip off the tongue of boxing *aficionados* as easily as Madison Square Garden but the Somerset market town will have its evening of boxing glory tonight.

Yesterday the cider-making town was gearing up for Frank Bruno to fight the American Rodolfo Marin. Shepton Mallet may have heard of Frank but Big Frank, who hopes the venue will be the launchpad for another shot at a world heavyweight title, admits that until he was booked to fight there he had never heard of Shepton Mallet. However, the incongruity of the setting should not worry Bruno, already familiar as a pantomime star only 20 miles down the road in Bristol.

Five thousand seats were being installed yesterday at the Showering Pavilion, the multi-purpose exhibition building normally used for storing animals for the Royal Bath and West Show. The ring was being delivered overnight for erection today.

Jo Perry, general manager of the centre, said: "We know what everyone from London thinks. It's not fair. But we've got used to it. We have broad shoulders down here. This is a good, versatile venue with the right capacity and ample parking. That's what clinched it. We shan't let anyone down."

The building is also used for pop concerts, antique fairs, motorcycle and car shows but never before has it staged a professional boxing bout.

Clive King, proprietor of the 17th century Cannards Well Inn, had his 15 bedrooms booked within hours of the fight tickets going on sale. He said: "It's brilliant, a great promotion for the town. Shepton Mallet is only a small town. We have the Bath and West Show but this is something else. It's created so much interest. Frank wants a another pop at the title and he won't let anyone down."

Local people were among the enthusiasts who snapped up tickets from £20 to £75 to turn the fight into a sell-out within three weeks.

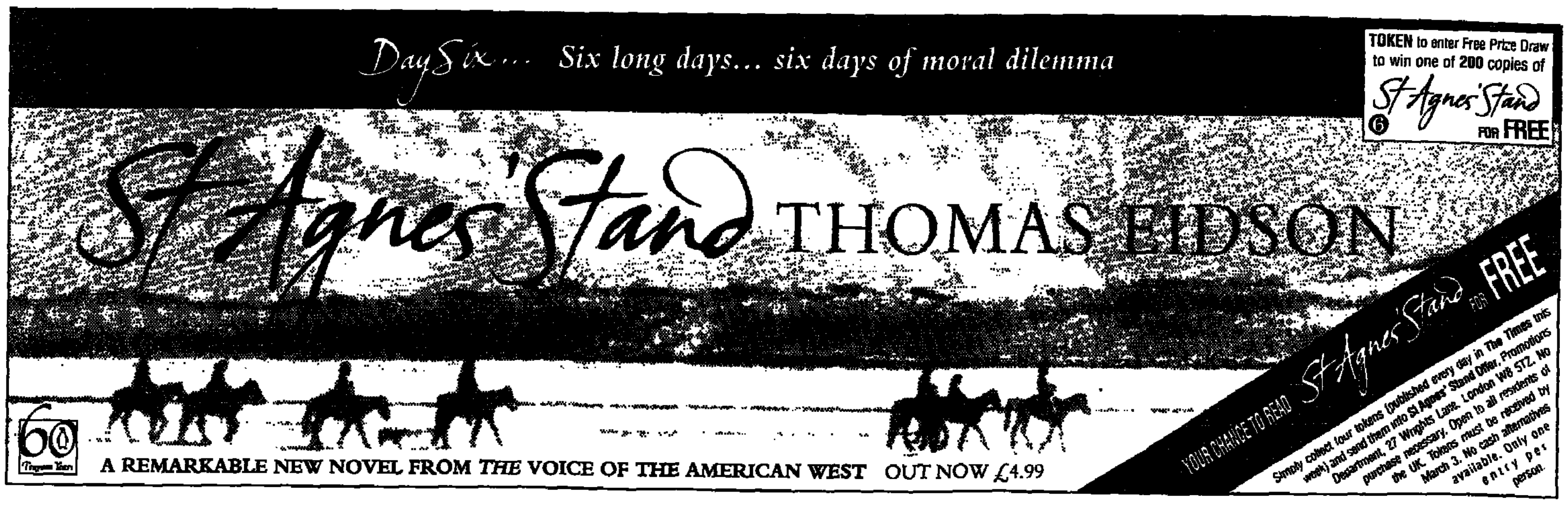
If there is a run on local supplies of champagne, a sea of Babycham will be on hand, for the town is the home of Gaymers, makers of cider and champagne perry. Gaymers took over from Showerings, which gave its name to the centre.

In 1990, a site to be developed as a warehouse by Showerings yielded evidence that the area was one of the earliest centres of Christian belief when a 4th century amulet was unearthed beneath a skeleton in a coffin. One of the oldest towns of the Mendips (the Shepton is short for Sheeptown; Mallet the name of the 11th century lords of the manor), it has several places of historical importance, including the market cross and the church tower.

Bruno's arrival will not be the first event to puncture the peace of this town of 7,000. In 1970, there was a two-day blues and rock festival where order was more or less maintained by Hell's Angels.

A nation waits, page 45

Bruno: hoping for another shot at title



Day Six... Six long days... six days of moral dilemma

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هكذا من الأصل

England finally honours the inimitable Wodehouse

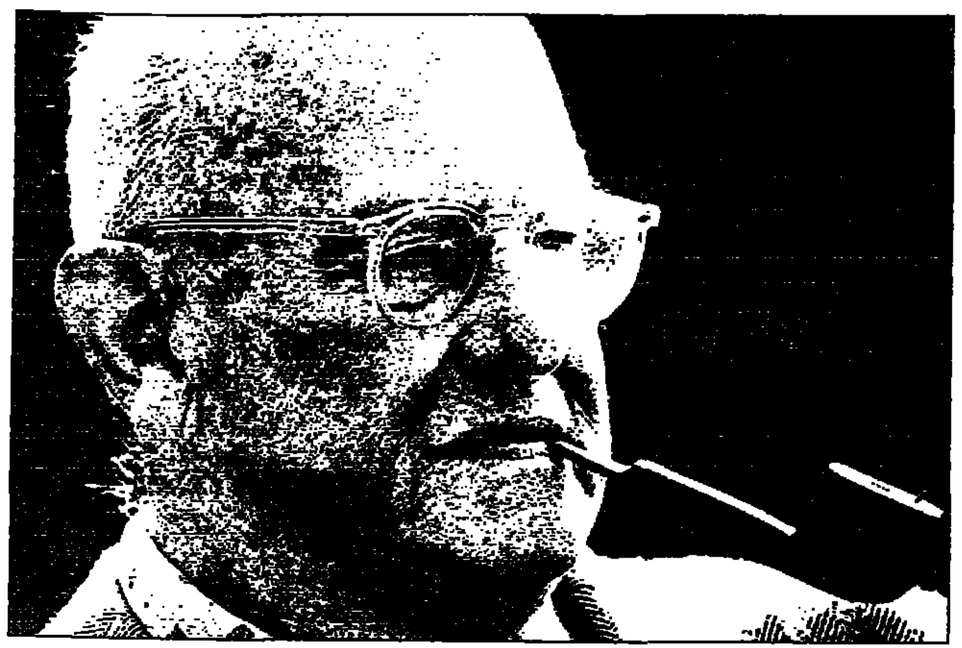
By Alan Hamilton

IN THIS twentieth anniversary week of P.G. Wodehouse's death. England is slowly stirring to the memory of its greatest master craftsman of the ludicrous.

A society has been formed. An exhibition is being assembled. One of his rarely seen musical comedies is to be revived. A book on Wodehouse and cricket is in preparation. You could be forgiven for thinking that the ghost of his greatest single mistake, broadcasting to America from Germany during the war, had finally been laid.

But now he is danger of moving from a source of innocent enjoyment to an object of serious study. Richard Morris, a Northampton journalist, recently formed the Wodehouse Society, having discovered to his surprise that no such thing existed in this country, despite fan clubs in America, The Netherlands and Sweden. There is even one in France with only two members, who take it in turn to be president.

Mr Morris, 28, is about to issue the second edition of the plainly named *Wodehouse Society Journal*. The American society's magazine at least goes for a pun, calling itself *Plum Lines* after the master's affectionate nickname. Mr Morris said yesterday: "I felt there was a particular need to promote Wodehouse's musical comedies, which have become a rather neglected area of his work."


P.G. Wodehouse: "wonderful metaphors . . . the most playful of authors"

The infant society as yet has only 60 members but they number such luminaries as the actors Stephen Fry and Richard Briers and the novelist Tom Sharpe. The society has had one early success: Wodehouse's musical comedy *Good Morning Bill* is to be staged at The Palace Theatre, Watford, in June. To employ a word typical of the master, this is spiffing news.

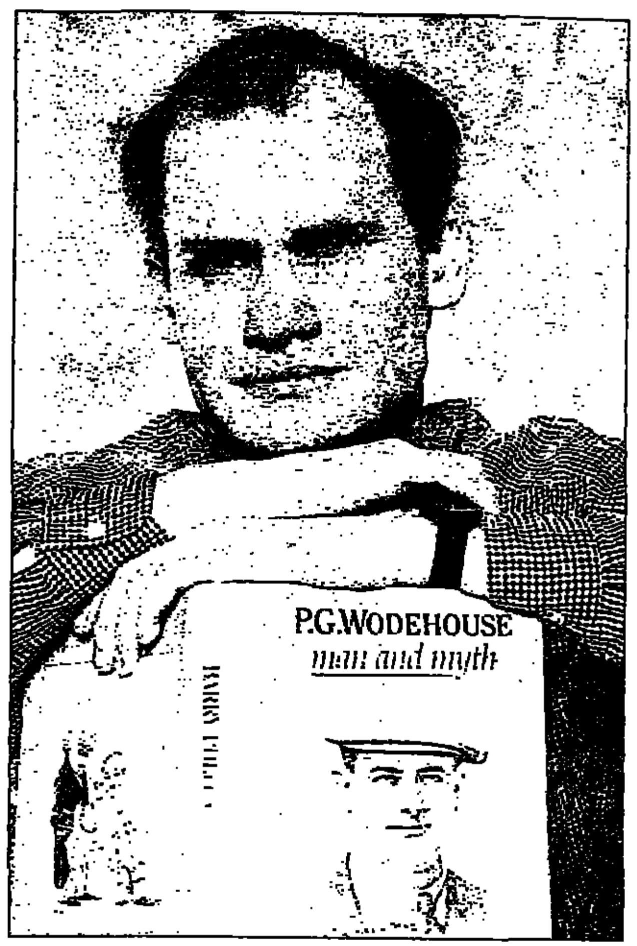
At Wodehouse's old school, Dulwich College in south London, which he attended from 1894 to 1900, an exhibition of manuscripts and memorabilia will open to the public next month, assembled by Dr Jan Piggott, English master and college archivist. "We should have done it last year on the centenary of his arrival at the school, but I'm afraid we didn't get round to it," Dr Piggott said. Sadly, the archivist does not have a gentleman's gentleman to organise such things for him.

"The appeal of Wodehouse is the appeal of an unfallen world. For me it is the language, the wonderful metaphors, the ridiculous situations: he is the most playful of authors," Dr Piggott said.

Penguin, which has in print 58 of Wodehouse's 100 titles, reports selling more than two million copies since it first published Plum in paperback in 1936. "He is one of those authors who just won't go away," said Paul Smith of Penguin. One day, books about Plum will doubtless outnumber those by him. The latest author to embark on a detailed study of the master is Murray Hedgecoe, retired London correspondent of *The Australian* newspaper, who is preparing a treatise on Wodehouse and cricket.

According to Mr Hedgecoe, who says he would have been at home in 1930s England "cocooned in *Meccano Magazines* and Ovaltine", the English are "very uncertain about taking a light, humorous writer seriously. They have never been sure how to deal with him. To be a successful English writer, you are supposed to have had a bad childhood."

Twenty years after the author's death at Remsenburg, New York, the revival of interest may lay to rest the two popular misconceptions: that Jeeves was a butler and that Bertie Wooster was a fool.



Morris: discovered to his surprise there was no appreciation society for Wodehouse in Britain

THE SUNDAY TIMES
The sirens of the saloon bar

❛Peggy is your George Orwell beehive-basic barmaid. She has a chest like a dead heat in a Zeppelin race and a grip that could unscrew the turret of a

Chieftain tank. She expects to be flirted with, and if you are rude enough to forget, she'll say: "I expect yours is a large one?" and wink by way of encouragement . . .❜

AA Gill offers a guide to the British male's favourite object of desire – in Style, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Karpov on verge

With a display of virtuoso endgame technique in a position that had seemed likely to be a draw, FIDE champion Anatoly Karpov has established a virtually unassailable lead against his opponent the Belorussian grandmaster Boris Gelfand.

The match continues in Sanghi Nagar, India, until one player reaches 5.5 points. However, with the score now 5-3 in his favour, there can be little doubt that Karpov will now advance to the final where his opponent will be the American Gata Kamsky.

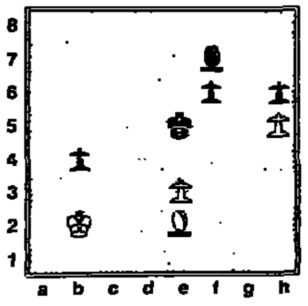
White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Anatoly Karpov
FIDE Candidates.
Sanghi Nagar,
Game 7, January 1995

Queen's Indian Defence

1	c4	Nf6
2	d4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	e3	Bb7
5	Nc3	d5
6	cxd5	exd5
7	Bb5+	c6
8	Bd3	Be7
9	0-0	0-0
10	b3	Nbd7
11	Bb2	Bd6
12	Rc1	Re8
13	Ne2	Qe7
14	Ng3	g6
15	Qe2	Ba3
16	Rfe1	Qd6
17	Qc2	Bxb2
18	Qxb2	c5
19	Red1	Rac8
20	Ne2	a6
21	Rc2	cxd4
22	Nexd4	Rxc2
23	Bxc2	Rc8
24	Rc1	Ne4
25	Bd3	Rxc1+
26	Qxc1	Qc5
27	Qd1	b5
28	Ne2	b4
29	Qa1	Qd6
30	Qd4	Qc5
31	Qa1	Qd6
32	h3	Ndc5
33	Bc2	Qf6
34	Qe5	Qxe5
35	Nxe5	f6
36	Nf3	Na6
37	Ne1	Kf7
38	f3	N4c5
39	g4	a5
40	Kf2	Ba6
41	h4	h6
42	h5	gxh5
43	gxh5	Ke7
44	Ng3	Ng7
45	Bg6	Kd6
46	Kg2	Bb5
47	Nc2	Nce6
48	f4	Bd7
49	Kf2	Nc7
50	Nd4	Nb5
51	Nxb5+	Bxb5
52	Ke1	Bd7
53	Bd3	Bg4
54	Be2	Nf5
55	Nxf5+	Bxf5
56	Kd2	Kc5
57	Bd3	Bd7
58	Bc2	Be8
59	Bg6	Bc6
60	Bc2	Bd7
61	Bd1	Bh3
62	Bf3	Bf5
63	Kc1	Bd7
64	Kd2	a4
65	bxa4	Bxa4
66	Be2	Bc6
67	Bf3	Be8
68	Bd1	d4
69	Kd3	Bb5+
70	Ke4	d3
71	Kf5	Bc4
72	Ke4	d2
73	f5	Bxa2
74	Kd3	Bb1+
75	Kxd2	Bxf5
76	Be2	Be4
77	Kc1	Kd6
78	Kb2	Bd5
79	Bd3	Bf7
80	Be2	Ke5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, Weekend, page 23

UNCROWDED BEACHES.
MODERN HOTELS.
EUROPEAN CUISINE.
GOLF, TENNIS
AND WATERSPORTS.
HISTORY GALORE.

TUNISIA

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What if you don't like it?

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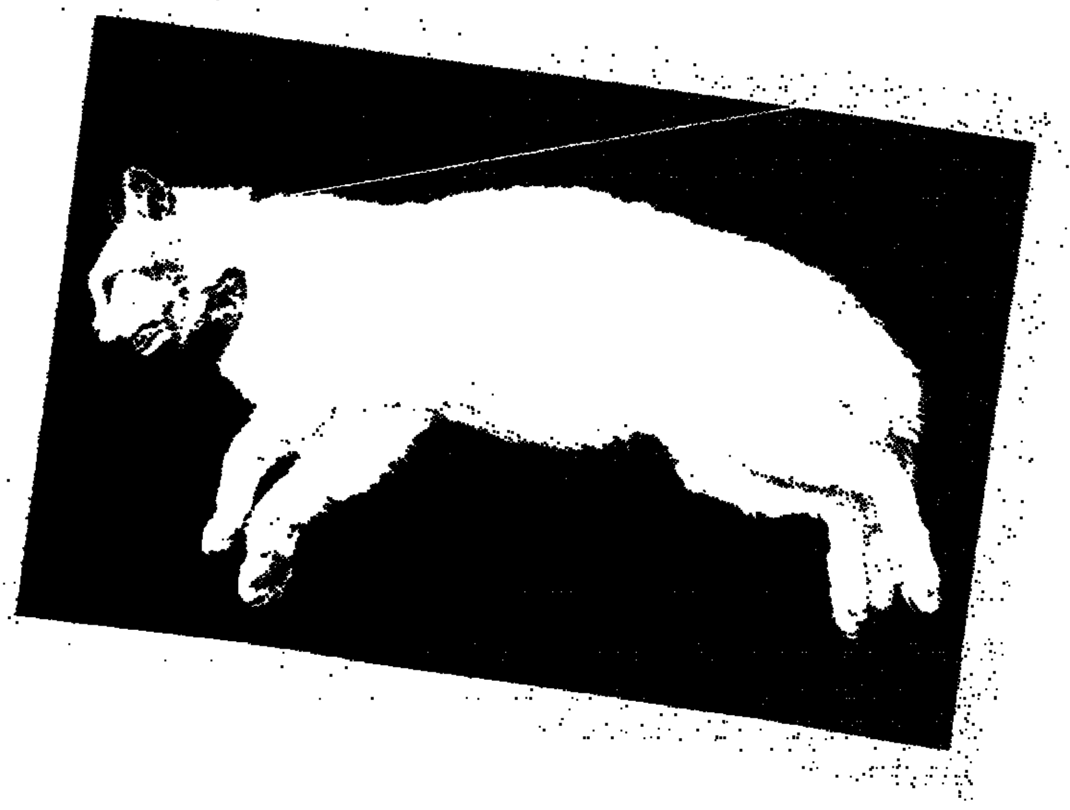
THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING BACK HANGING. IT'S ALREADY HERE.



As well as being the most primitive form of hunting (Stone Age man used them) snares are the most inefficient. Set them to catch foxes and you're just as likely to find cats and dogs, deer and badgers or farm animals in them. Animals snared around the waist are slowly disembowelled, left alive with intestines hanging out for days. Caught by the leg they sometimes tear it off to crawl away and die later. Around the neck they are slowly strangled and almost decapitated. The Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill will prevent random snaring. Please write to your MP and urge them to vote in favour on March 3rd. Before your pet gets it in the neck...stomach or leg.

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International Fund for Animal Welfare. Warren Court, Park Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2GA. For more information call IFAW on FREEPHONE 0500 181818.

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Euro
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By Jonathan Prynn, T

EUROTUNNEL has failed i its attempts to block the £60 million-a-year trade in duty free sales on cross-Channe ferries and hovercraft.

Two High Court judge yesterday threw out the Chan nel Tunnel operator's conten tion — that duty-free sale amount to an unfair trading advantage — on the technica ground that it had taken to long to prepare its case.

The company was also barred from going to the European Court of Justice. However the judges, Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Tucker, did leave the door open to a fresh legal challenge directed specifically at day-trip "booze cruises".

The ruling means that the highly lucrative duty-free trade on ferries can continue. About 30 million Britons a year purchase duty-free items worth an estimated £1.3 billion: it costs the Exchequer more than £400 million.

Cigarettes and drink are the most popular duty-free items. Although prices vary enormously, a bottle of Scotch whisky costing about £18 to £19 in the UK might be as little as £10 on a ferry. Similarly, people buying 200 cigarettes can save about £5. Eurotunnel argues that such sales are unfair because the profits are used to subsidise ferry tickets.

John Noulton, Eurotunnel's director of public affairs, said: "Today's decision is very dis-

Let lay
Commu

By Ruth

A LEADING evangelical bishop in the Church of England has declared his support for lay celebration of Holy Communion, opening an issue that could divide the church more deeply than the ordination of women priests.

Lay celebration has split the Anglican church in Australia, where one synod has voted in favour. Most church leaders fear that lay celebration would undermine the tradition of separate priesthood, diaconate and laity in the church. Hopes for unity with the Roman Catholic and other churches would be dashed. But the Right Rev

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All fares listed are return from
be booked by the 2nd March
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'Booze cruises' survive

Eurotunnel loses fight to end duty-free sales on ferries

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL has failed in its attempts to block the £600 million-a-year trade in duty-free sales on cross-Channel ferries and hovercraft.

Two High Court judges yesterday threw out the Channel Tunnel operator's contention — that duty-free sales amount to an unfair trading advantage — on the technical ground that it had taken too long to prepare its case.

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John Noulton, Eurotunnel's director of public affairs, said: "Today's decision is very disappointing for us. It's been taken on procedural grounds but substantive issues were raised and have not been addressed. We shall now be studying the judgment and considering any future moves in the light of it. It is too early to say yet whether we shall come back to court on the question of the booze cruises."

The ferry operators welcomed the ruling as "a victory for common sense". P&O European Ferries said: "Millions of people in Europe benefit from duty- and tax-free shopping. Duty-free sales have been an integral part of the revenue structure of ferries and airlines since the Second World War."

A spokesman for Stena Sealink said: "Duty-free sales have played a vital role in sustaining ferry companies in their competition with each other and in the face of increasing competition with the Channel Tunnel."

The ferry operators receive roughly a third of their revenues from on-board sales, which are believed to subsidise ticket prices by up to £100 million a year.

Eurotunnel already sells duty-free goods at Folkestone and Calais but made no provision for on-board Le Shuttle sales because it expected duty-free shopping to be abolished. It is now considering introducing "catalogue" sales of duty-free goods.

BARRY BATCHELOR

VOTE LORD SUTCH
I BET I WILL BEAT WILLIAM HILL

Lord Sutch, narrowly beaten by Robert Buckland, said: "by mistake people voted for the wrong loony party"

Lord Sutch narrowly fails to beat Tory

By Jill Sherman
Political Correspondent

SCREAMING Lord Sutch was last night celebrating one of the Monster Raving Loony Party's best by-election results after narrowly failing to beat the Tories in Islwyn, in Gwent, on Thursday night.

Lord Sutch, who gained 506 votes, claimed that voters had decided to vote for the only party opposed to Europe. After coming a respectable fifth in the poll, he said: "We had thought we would beat the Tories but by mistake people voted for the wrong loony party."

The Tories struggled to put a positive gloss on their third worst by-election result since 1918. They polled 913 votes, coming fourth behind Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats. Party sources argued that any by-election was just a snapshot and thus had little wider relevance. They also pointed out that both Conservative and Labour voters had stayed at home suggesting that there was little enthusiasm for Labour policies.

Don Touhig, Neil Kinnock's successor as Labour MP, who romped home with a majority of 13,097, said: "The electors of Islwyn have destroyed [the Tories'] last vestiges of credibility."

Labour sources said that the Tories, who at the 1992 general election came second, had at one stage looked likely to scrape into third place this time. However, after a late surge of campaigning by the Liberal Democrats, and a bad last two days for the Tories, John Bushell, the Liberal Democrat candidate, held on.

Although Labour's vote fell from 30,908 at the 1992 election to 16,030 on a very low turnout of 45 per cent, party chiefs were satisfied that their share of the vote had largely held. Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, said the Conservatives now faced electoral annihilation in Wales. "On this showing, they would be hard-pressed to keep a single constituency. Less than one voter in 50 in Islwyn turned out to support them."

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, also hailed another by-election success, after the party's victory in Dudley West in December: "The people of Wales, like people all over Britain, cannot wait to see the back of the Tories."

Don Touhig, who held the seat for Labour

RESULT

Don Touhig (Lab)	16,030
Jocelyn Davies (PC)	2,933
John Bushell (LD)	2,448
Robert Buckland (C)	913
David Sutch (Loony)	506
Hugh Moelwyn Hughes (UK Independence)	289
Timothy Rees (Natural Law)	47
Labour majority	13,097

Credo

Feeding a hunger for spiritual peace

Akbar Ahmed

MILLIONS of people throughout the world, including thousands in Britain, are fasting this month. It is Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast from early dawn to sunset. Many of us like to use this time to think of the millions less fortunate than ourselves — those whose lives are broken, persecuted minorities, refugees, or people experiencing the heartache of everyday life.

Fasting is not special to Muslims. From Jesus to Gandhi, the religious figures of history have done it. Dilemmas, doubts, fears and hopes are put into perspective when the stomach is empty. A person may dream dreams and clarify the vision. Fasting is also an effective way to check the consumerism that is all around us — the fast foods, the snacks, the images on television. Fasting forces us to pause, to say to ourselves we can do without this.

Fasting is not self-punishment. The aim is not to lose weight to satisfy the ego. It is to challenge the inner reserves, to draw on the spiritual. Rising in the early hours for the morning meal and prayers, then fasting all day and, finally, breaking the fast together cements people like nothing else during the routine of the year. It is this aspect of Islam that ensures continuity from one generation to the next.

It also ensures equality between the sexes. Women are as enthusiastic as the men, if not more. It is perhaps the one time when the rich and powerful are forced to think of those who have little to eat during the whole year.

Ramadan creates a whole self-contained world around Muslims. From dawn to dusk an individual is either preparing for the fast, fasting or praying. In effect there is a withdrawal from the hurly-burly of the outside, real world. The heartache and pain of living are reduced, shrunk into perspective. The Koran emphasises patience; it is one of the great virtues, it lends balance and sobriety.

For Muslims the importance of the month is underlined in the Koran. Indeed it was first revealed to the holy prophet while he was in the caves outside Mecca, fasting and praying. Sura 97 points out that the devotion on one night, the famous "Night of Power" towards the end of the month, by which time a kind of numbness and heightened ecstasy grip the faster, is equal to a thousand months of devotion. The gates of mercy, compassion and kindness are open.

At a time when there is so much suffering in our world a return to the religious truths symbolised by the Ramadan fast can show that when all is lost there is still hope, that faith will triumph.

☐ *Professor Akbar Ahmed is a fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge*

At your service, Weekend, page 2

Let lay people celebrate Communion, says bishop

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A LEADING evangelical bishop in the Church of England has declared his support for lay celebration of Holy Communion, opening an issue that could divide the church more deeply than the ordination of women priests.

Lay celebration has split the Anglican church in Australia, where one synod has voted in favour. Most church leaders fear that lay celebration would undermine the tradition of separate priesthood, diaconate and laity in the church. Hopes for unity with the Roman Catholic and other churches would be dashed. But the Right Rev Gavin Reid, the Bishop of Maidstone, says there is more to priestly ministry than "standing behind communion tables". Bishop Reid, an assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury, called for "provisional lay celebration" when a congregation could not find a priest.

A bishop should be able, in extreme circumstances, "to grant specific permission for a lay celebration of the Eucharist," he told Southwark diocesan evangelical union, southeast London. "What I have in mind is a service without any central figure leading from behnd the Lord's Table and where a shortened form of the eucharistic prayer is said by the priesthood that is present — namely the congregation itself."

Canon law says: "No person shall consecrate and administer the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper unless he shall have been ordained priest by episcopal ordination." The Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, said in yesterday's *Church Times* that he would be "very wary" of lay celebration.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

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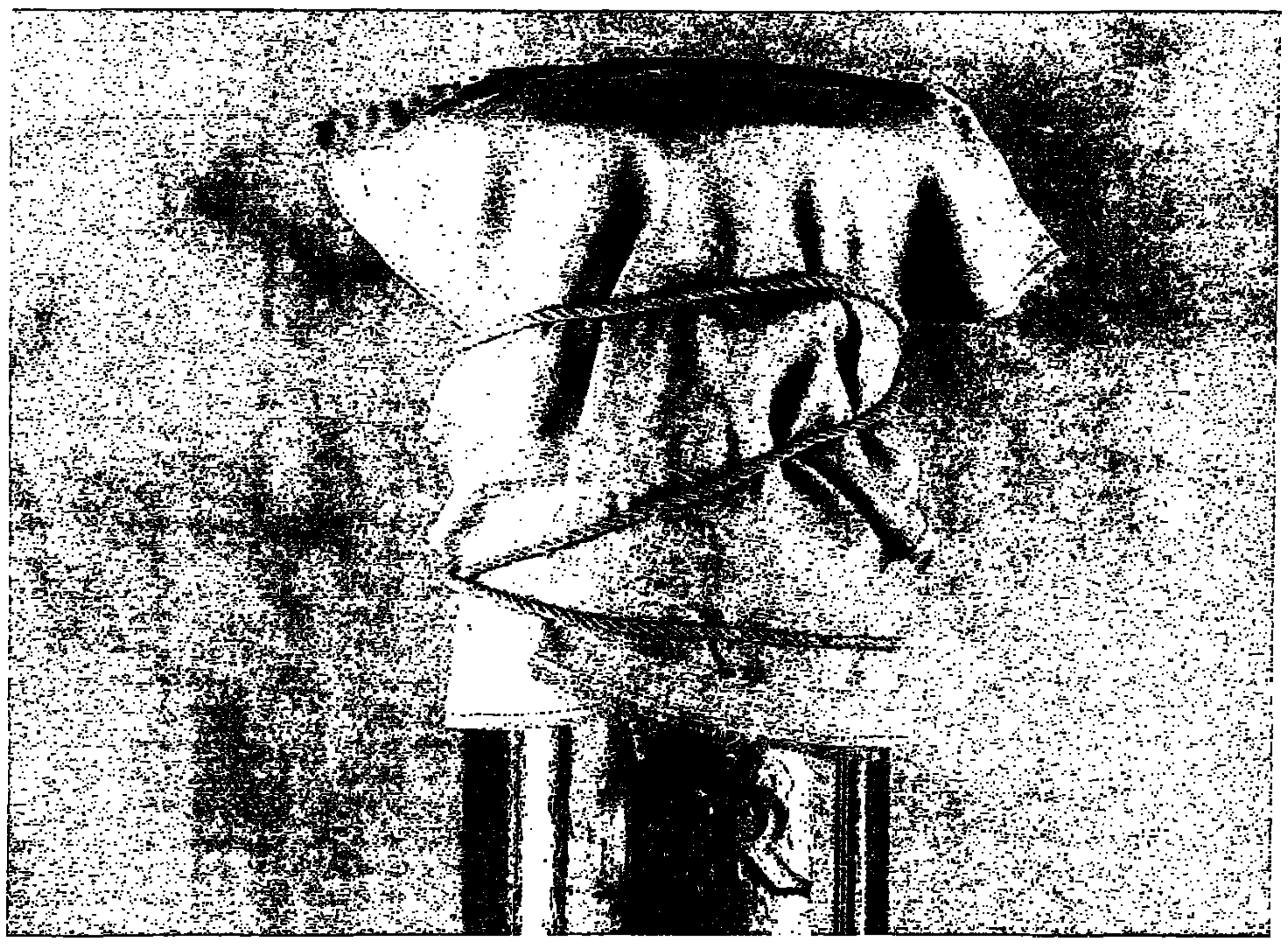

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Socialists gain as warring Gaullists duel with ditties

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE presidential feud between the warring brothers in France's Gaullist party came down yesterday to a question of music.

As Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and long-standing favourite, sagged in the polls this week, his team struggled to come up with an anthem to revive interest in a public that finds him boring. The unlikely result appeared at M Balladur's first public rally on Thursday as the candidate, awkward as ever in his buttoned-up suit, shuffled on to a suburban Paris stage to the heroic strains of *Christopher Columbus*, the theme to the 1992 film by Vangelis, the Greek film composer.

The team of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist chief who is fighting for his political life, fired back a musical broadside last night when he staged the latest attempt to relaunch a campaign that has failed to ignite. Its weapon was Zouc Machine, a Caribbean band which was to warm up the crowd at the Porte de Versailles with reggae-tinted rock before M Chirac, 62, was again to proclaim himself the only man who could jolt France into a new era of youthful energy.

The duelling ditties summed up the contrasting battles being waged by the one-time friends as they engage in a potentially suicidal battle for the broad middle-ground that offers the key to seven years in the Elysée Palace. As Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, has gained surprising momentum, drawing even with M Balladur in voting intentions for the April 23 first round in the two-stage election, a nightmarish spectre has begun to trouble senior Gaullists.

This is the possibility that the conservative rivals could destroy each other, opening the way to a new Socialist presidency. The anguish is sharpest in the Balladur camp, home to a majority of the Cabinet. Alarmed at the Prime Minister's slide in the polls, they are denouncing M Chirac and his team for "picking on the wrong enemy and undermining the Gaullist with the best chance of winning".

M Chirac's men are turning a deaf ear as the Paris Mayor, who has lost two previous runs at the presidency, charges on, presenting himself as the only legitimate heir to the mantle of the late General de Gaulle.

The Chirac side has taken heart from a series of stumbles by M Balladur and his Government. The Prime Minister's manifesto, launched with fanfare on Monday, has been criticised as uninspiring.

The Prime Minister's team has been further rattled by signs that the campaign is about to be joined by two more conservatives — Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister, and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President. Though neither has a serious chance of reaching the second-round run-off on May 7, their presence would further dilute support for the Prime Minister and might even allow M Chirac to eclipse him in the first.

Last night the Gaullists took some comfort after a decision by a Marseilles court to send Henri Emmanuelli, the Socialist party leader, to stand trial on charges of involvement in illicit party funding.

Chirac: pledging an era of youthful energy

Balladur: struggling to inspire bored voters

'Nicosia' declared obsolete

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE divided capital of Cyprus now has three names, but Nicosia, the one by which it is globally known, has been declared obsolete.

Greek Cypriot councillors voted unanimously to change the spelling to Lefkosia to conform with the way the name is pronounced in Greek. The drive to call the capital Lefkosia came mainly from Greek nationalists who believe Nicosia was the invention of the British and associated it with colonial rule which ended in 1960. In fact, it was the French Lusignans, who ruled Cyprus from 1192 to 1489, who called the capital Nicosia.

"The issue was taken up like a flag by the nationalists," said Lellos Demetriades, the Mayor, who had little enthusiasm for the name change.

Mr Demetriades is concerned that Lefkosia could be confused with Lefkosha, the Turkish Cypriot name for their part of the divided capital. In any event, maps and road signs will have to be changed. The international business community is appalled by the decision.

Hitler playing with his dogs at Berchtesgaden and, below, with Eva Braun on the balcony of his Alpine home

Hitler's Alpine lair revives bitterness buried in the past

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BERCHTESGADEN, the site of Adolf Hitler's Alpine holiday home where he plotted military campaigns and gambolled with his mistress Eva Braun, has become the subject of a three-cornered battle between the US Army, the Bavarian Government and angry former owners.

Set high on the Obersalzberg mountain close to the Austrian frontier, Hitler pressured locals to sell their houses and built a Nazi leisure complex that included the summer homes of Marshal Hermann Goering, Chief of Staff Martin Bormann and Albert Speer, his Armaments Minister. The Berghof compound above Berchtesgaden was Hitler's bolthole, his refuge from the damp bunker in Berlin and the stark concrete blocks of the Wolf's Lair in eastern Prussia.

Almost exactly 50 years ago the Royal Air Force bombed Berchtesgaden to prevent Hitler from slipping out of Berlin and hiding in the labyrinth of underground passages carved into the mountainside on the orders of Bormann. Hundreds of gallons of mineral water, sacks of dried fruit and an armoury of machineguns were stockpiled there.

After the war the American Government took control of the site. Hitler's house was bulldozed. An SS guardhouse was turned into a hotel for US servicemen and their families; Speer's house, the only Nazi leader's home still standing, and a small farm were turned into recreation facilities.

Now that the United States has given back Berchtesgaden to the Bavarian Government, the problems have begun. The Bavarian authorities regard the compound as a rather unwelcome gift. The Prime Minister's office in Munich has promised that the site "will not become a mecca for neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists", but that plainly is the fear.

Lawyers, too, have entered the fray. When Hitler moved in — he bought the original house in 1933 soon after coming to power — about 60 villagers were forced to sell. According to their lawyer, Oskar Steuer, some were even threatened with life in concentration camps unless they parted with their homes. Now five dispossessed owners are preparing to take the Bavarian Government to court for compensation.

The Bavarian Finance Ministry, despite its reluctance to take over the Hitler compound, will resist their claims. It argues that the agreement with the US rules out compensation for pre-war contracts.

For all the wrangling, there is no doubting the historic significance of Berchtesgaden, where a café is open to the public in summer. Locals point out with some pride that the Führer used to sup tea there with Eva Braun.

France forced to rethink EU goals

BY CHARLES BREMNER

SEVEN weeks into France's European Union presidency Paris has been forced to review its strategy in the light of two embarrassing reverses.

The Gaullist-led Government had declared measures to preserve the "European cultural identity" and to "rebalance Europe towards the south" to be priorities. But last Tuesday France found itself in humiliating isolation at a ministerial meeting in Bordeaux when other EU member states joined Britain in opposing the strengthening of barriers against American-made entertainment on European television. Then on Thursday France abruptly stopped a Brussels meeting, attended by 70 ministers from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, after failing to win agreement from its partners for an increase in EU aid to the developing world.

Although final decisions on both matters have yet to be taken, Paris's isolation has prompted misgivings over the wisdom of proclaiming ambitious French goals for Europe when the EU has little appetite for bold gestures. "It's all very well staging impressive acts, but you have to be sure you have the means to finish them," an official said after the aid meeting.

Some critics are charging the Government of Edouard Balladur with playing to the domestic audience with promises of French leadership at a time when the country is deep in a presidential campaign. "France likes its *coups d'éclat* [brilliant strokes], but it does not always know how to prepare the ground and even less, how to follow through," the pro-Gaullist *Le Figaro* said yesterday.

Ministers have blamed Britain for the reverses, questioning London's commitment to the EU. Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister, denounced Britain for leading the other states astray on their commitment to broadcasting quotas. After the aid debacle, where Britain was alone in wanting to cut funds, Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, said: "There is no more European Union" if countries followed Britain's logic on multilateral foreign aid.

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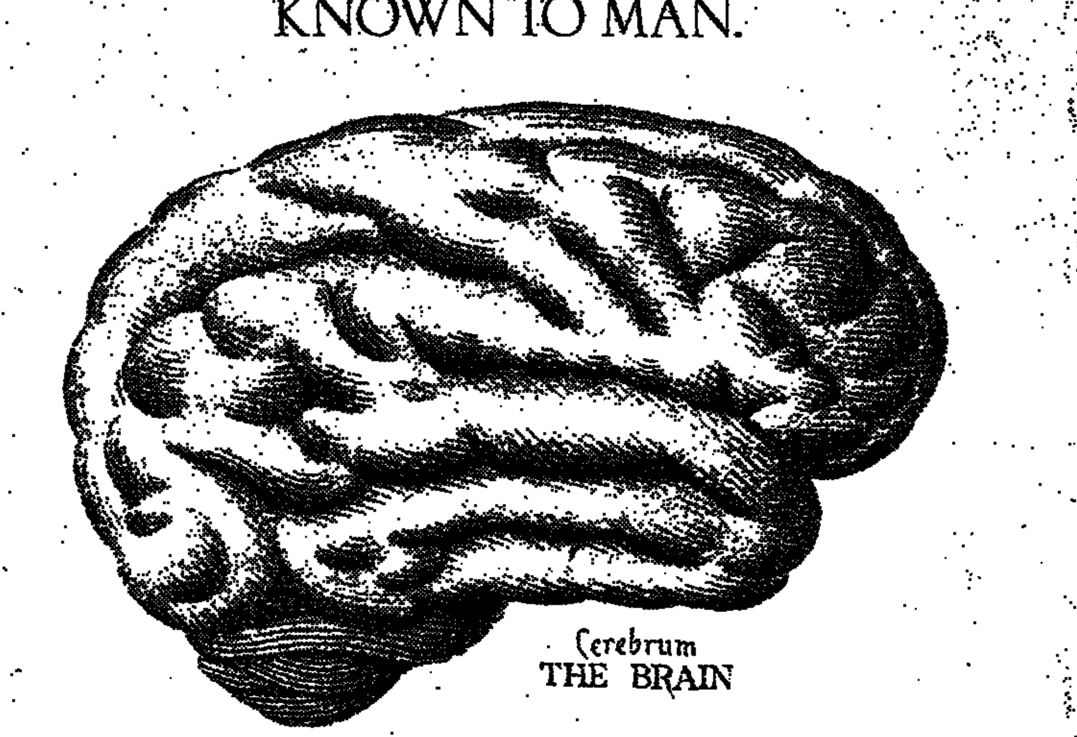

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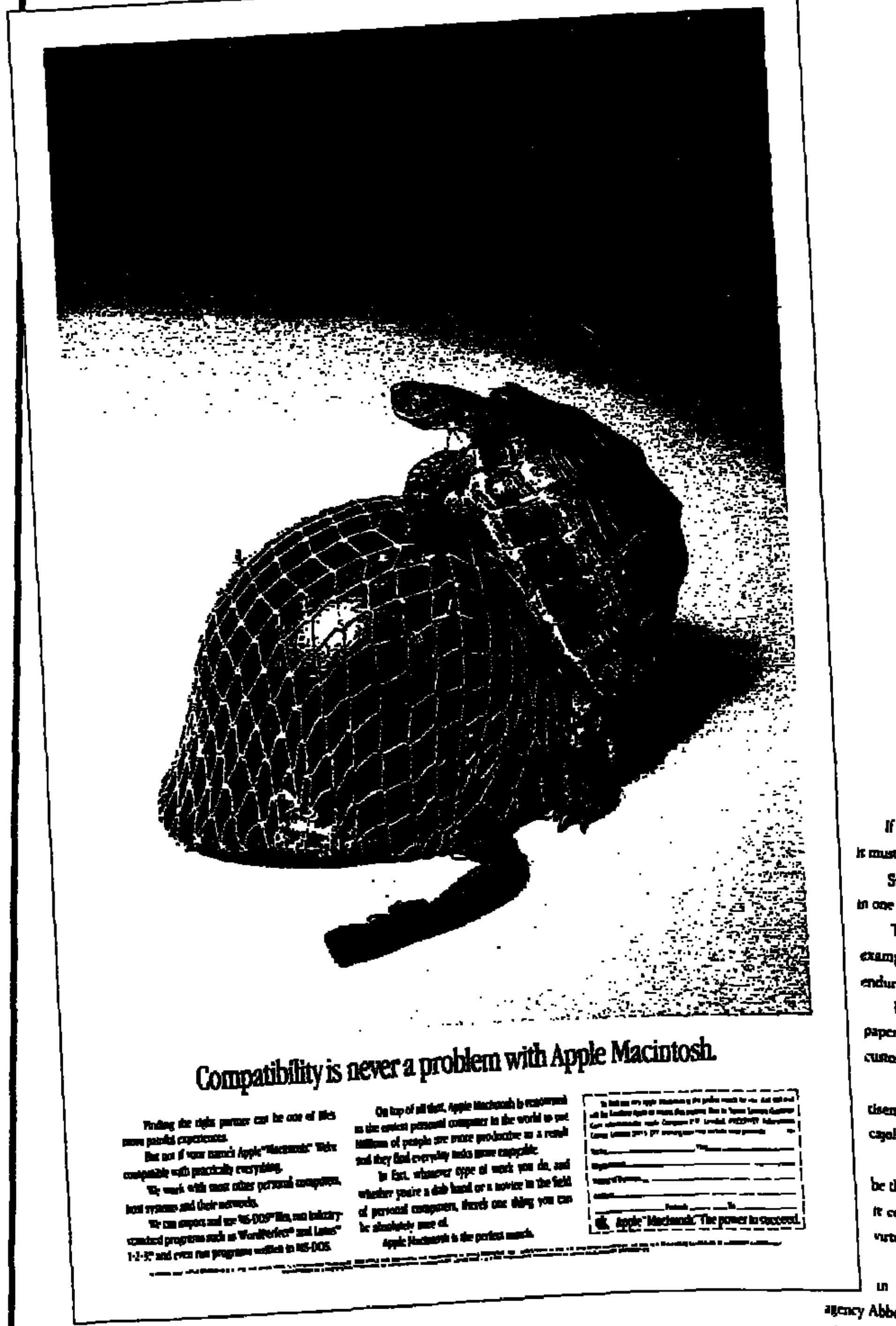
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Pope rebukes Rome's first citizen as green agenda falters in run-up to millennium celebrations

Moped mayor in a jam

THE honeymoon is over for Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome. The baby-faced first citizen of the Eternal City was this week roundly castigated by the Pope, who thundered that he was unhappy at the sluggish progress of Rome's administration in preparing for the holy year that will attract up to 30 million pilgrims to the capital in 2000 to mark the start of Christianity's third millennium.

As Signor Rutelli, 40, begins his second year at the Campidoglio Palace, Romans are also grumbling that he has not addressed electoral promises to ease chaotic traffic, improve public transport, provide more car parks and mend the holes in the roads.

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS

Crime is on the increase as the army of *scipatori* (muggers) on motor scooters snatch more bags from pedestrians, and burglaries of homes proliferate. Plans to provide more green space for the three-quarters of the city's 2.8 million inhabitants who live in grim concrete suburbs have yet to leave the drawing board. Rome remains the European capital with the least park space per citizen. At a Vatican audience on Monday, the Pope, in his role as Bishop of Rome, coldly told Signor Rutelli that the millennium jubilee "will put to the test organisational capacity, structures and machinery, and the attitudes needed to play host to a great number of pilgrims." The pontiff also admonished the green politician to "spare no energy" to help hundreds of thousands of Romans suffering from inadequate housing, poor transport and social services, and soaring unemployment.

Opinion polls a year after Signor Rutelli's election found 58 per cent of Romans believed that the traffic system and driving habits of latter-day charioteers had not improved during his time in office. Some 56 per cent said the bus service and underground railway network were as disgusting as ever.

Citizens acknowledge that Signor Rutelli inherited a fossilised bureaucracy. His humane style and the popular distrust of Gianfranco Fini, the "post-Fascist" rival whom he defeated in December 1993, mean that many are prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt for some months yet as he putters to work on his moped to realise his plans for a dynamic modern capital.

Others feel Signor Rutelli's dressing down from the Pope was richly deserved. As *Il Messaggero* newspaper put it in a headline: "The Pope told Rutelli: 'Get a move on'."

Two wheels better: Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, arrives for work

Palace for sale as Left heads for red

SIGNOR RUTELLI'S party, the Democratic Party of the Left, the former Communists, hope to stave off bankruptcy by selling their imposing six-storey headquarters in the Via delle Botteghe Oscure, the Palazzo Rosso. With debts amounting to 160 billion lire (£60 million) and funds from Moscow long since cut off, Marco Fredda, the party treasurer, was pleased to receive an offer of 45 billion lire from a travel agency, Appian Line, which hopes to create a five-star hotel for pilgrims visiting the city in 2000, the holy year. "But the price was not right," Signor Fredda sighed. "Our headquarters is worth at least double, between 80 and 90 billion." Time is running short, however. Party employees still awaiting their last salary cheques have threatened an unprecedented strike next week.

Appian Way to vandalism

SIGNOR Rutelli's achievements include a tough campaign against illegal building by the *palazzinari*, the unscrupulous property speculators active in suburban slums and archaeological Roman ruins.

Bulldozers first went into action in December 1993, demolishing houses without planning permission on the Via Casalina. Some 140 illegal villas and blocks of flats have been flattened in Rome since then but conservationists want the Mayor to extend the battle to the Via Appia Antica (the Appian Way), the ancient road lined with tombs.

Since the war, the Appia Antica has been assailed by *palazzinari*, building sprawling villas and blocks of flats for film stars, religious orders and diplomats among the ruins. In 1965, building on the road was outlawed. However, illegal building, often disguised as "reconstruction", continued. In 1976, Italia Nostra, a conservation group, said 250 illegal buildings had been put up since 1965 on the Appian Way.

Antonio Cederna, Italia Nostra's chairman, recently took up the cudgels against Giorgio Greco, a Roman entrepreneur, and his six brothers, who have built a large villa close to the tomb of Cecilia Metella, among the best preserved ruins on the Appia Antica. But he has been hampered by red tape and a shortage of funds.

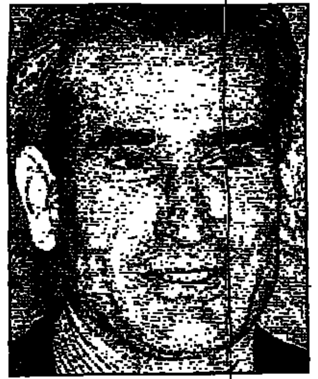
Madrid anti-terror chief charged in death squad case

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Spanish judicial investigation into who organised and financed death squads that murdered 27 Basque terrorist suspects in southwest France a decade ago moved closer to implicating the Socialist Government in Madrid yesterday.

Rafael Vera, the former Secretary of State for Security, was remanded in custody after midnight, becoming the sixth and highest-ranking official so far to be limnked to the scandal that has severely damaged the credibility of Felipe González, the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, former ministers rallied to Señor Vera and denounced the accusations against him as unjust. "We express our solidarity as [former] ministers who have been with Rafael Vera, and want to point out what not only we but all Spaniards owe him," said José Barrionuevo, a former Interior Minister. He was speaking at a press conference called jointly with his successor, José Luis Corcuera.



Vera: "risked his life to fight terrorism"

Señor Corcuera said he was saddened by the charges against Señor Vera, who had "dedicated a great part of his life at enormous risk" to fighting terrorism. Earlier, 73 former associates of Señor Vera signed a note of solidarity, claiming that he had "efficiently co-ordinated the fight against terrorism and the defence of freedom".

After 4½ hours of interrogation on Thursday night, Señor Vera, 49, was accused by the High Court investigating judge, Baltasar Garzón, of financing a kidnap, illegal detention, the misappropriation of public funds and breaking exchange control regulations.

Señor Vera, who resigned from his job in January last year, was highly respected during 11 years in the Interior Ministry for his role in tackling Eta, the Basque separatist organisation that has been responsible for nearly 800 deaths during its 26-year battle for an independent homeland in northern Spain.

The key player in the investigation into Gal — the Government's so-called Anti-terrorist Liberation Group — is Judge Garzón, 39, who has gained a similar status in Spain to Italy's fearless Antonio Di Pietro, who was responsible for bringing mafiosi and corrupt officials to trial.

Señor Garzón temporarily left the judiciary to become Señor González's running mate in the last general election in June 1993. But as soon as the Socialists were surprisingly returned with a minority, Señor Garzón, who had at least expected to become Interior Minister, was sidelined.

Disillusioned and highly embarrassed, he quit politics and returned to the High Court. Socialists are now accusing him of reopening the case out of revenge and seeking to topple the Prime Minister, in power for 12½ years.

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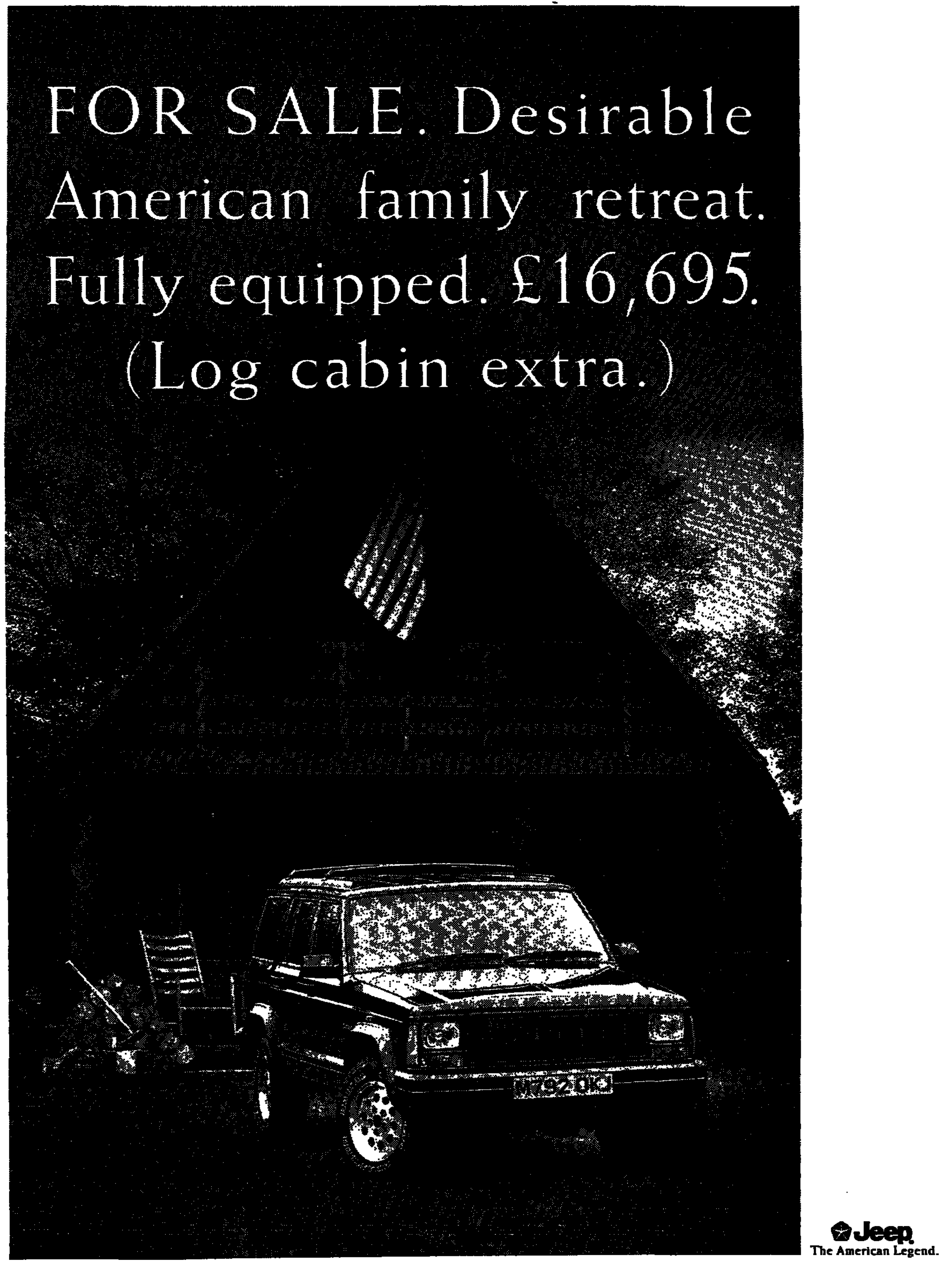

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Bhutto looks both ways to appease West and clerics

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

Benazir Bhutto the progressive is outraged by the threatened hanging of a child, but as a pragmatist she must accommodate the clergy

BENAZIR BHUTTO is two people. One is a Western-educated liberal, an advocate of women's rights, a champion of the poor and stern critic of Islamic extremism.

The other is a super-rich feudal landlord who does nothing about laws which humiliate women, the leader of an increasingly intolerant and class-divided Islamic state.

The conservative Miss Bhutto plays the Islamic card to win approval from influential clergy, creating a febrile religious atmosphere in which a Lahore judge felt able, or obliged, to convict a 14-year-old Christian boy for blasphemy. The child was 12 when the alleged offence was committed at a village mosque outside Lahore. Death is mandatory for blasphemy under changes to the penal code in 1993.

Salamat Masih is thus on death row. This violates every international convention on the rights of children and represents a significant advance in state brutality in the name of religion. Miss Bhutto at home has been muted in her reaction, saying she was shocked and saddened but would not interfere with the legal process. When she visits the United States in April, she is likely to metamorphose into an outraged progressive.

For the progressive Miss Bhutto always travels overseas: Pakistanis see only the conservative, domestic version. Abroad, she is sympathetic to Pakistani women who are jailed for being raped, and critical of the undermining of the judicial system by the parallel operation of Sharia (Islamic) courts. Once home, she does nothing to try to redress the institutionalised persecution of women, fearing the power of extremists.

Overseas, she denies that her Government facilitates the supply of guns and money for war in Indian Kashmir. At home, she practically confirms it because it plays well politically and appeals to jingoistic nationalism. The foreign Miss Bhutto denies that Pakistan has nuclear bombs: the domestic version exploits national pride in this symbol of virility and defiance of the West.

While in America, she will deride the Islamic zealots to whom she bends the knee at home. Pakistan, in danger of unravelling from drugs, violence, tribal feuds and ethnic battles, has only two unifying factors: Islam and India. Harmony with India is thus not an option for Pakistan, because it would leave only Islam to define the country. That is why Islamabad will never willingly stop fuelling Muslim rebellion in the Kashmir Valley. Pakistan became an Islamic state in 1956, and since then, intolerance and persecution of religious minorities, comprising 5 per cent of the 123-million population, have increased notch by notch. The threatened hanging of a Christian boy is the high point of bigotry. Various governments since the early 1980s have added an Islamic flavour to civil and criminal law, leaving minorities vulnerable and afraid. The two million Christians are especially fearful. The vague provisions of a set of legislation known collectively as the blasphemy laws, providing severe penalties for offences against Islam, create and sustain religious persecution. When next interviewed by a Western journalist, Miss Bhutto the progressive will doubtless be outraged by the threatened child-hanging. No such strident sentiments will be uttered at home by Miss Bhutto the pragmatist, who must accommodate the clergy.

Women require three male Muslim witnesses to prove rape. Victims fear complaining to the police because, unable to substantiate their allegations, they risk prosecution for fornication or adultery.

The evidence against Salamat Masih is thin. The law requires only one priest to allege blasphemy, giving local clergy terrifying power over the poor majority. No private lawyer was willing to represent the accused Christians. The judge who tried Salamat asked for police protection, which was refused.

Christians, Hindus and Sikhs are stunned by the case. Miss Bhutto noted that it would embarrass her on her American trip. She spoke of the need to amend the law to stop it being abused, but she knows, as do the clergy, that it would be political suicide to try.

The boy and his uncle stand a good chance of acquittal on appeal if the judge decides to be courageous. But as Bishop Azariah of the Christian multi-denominational Church of Pakistan noted, "they will probably never be safe in their own country".

Student force holds key to Kabul peace

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A UNITED NATIONS plane arrived in Kabul yesterday carrying the first members of a proposed interim council due to assume power in the Afghan capital in the next few days. The UN had to seek assurances that the aircraft would not be shot down, a measure of the tensions that have brought renewed doubts about prospects for peace.

The fate of the UN plan, negotiated over the past six months between various former Mujahidin groups, depends on the attitude of the new Islamic students' force, Taleban, which has consolidated its positions on the southern outskirts of Kabul. It has made clear its intention to occupy the capital, but there has been no fighting so far with government troops.

The UN hopes Taleban will join the interim administration, although the group has said it would have nothing to do with those it accuses of destroying Afghanistan since the collapse of the Communist Government in April 1992. Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN envoy to Afghanistan who was on board yesterday's flight — the first plane to land at Kabul airport for more than a year because of heavy fighting — said that he expected President Rabbani to step down on Monday.

Pakistan fears that the Pashtun-based Taleban could threaten stability in its largely Pashtun North-West Frontier Province. It denies involvement in creating Taleban, although the group has links with influential Pakistani clerics. It grew out of Islamic religious schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The latest town to fall to Taleban is Pule Charkhi, on Kabul's eastern outskirts.

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Exit of Deng ally heightens Peking power struggle

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

A CLOSE ally of Deng Xiaoping, China's reforming senior leader, has stepped down as chairman of a key state company at a time when diplomats say that the role of Mr Deng in the Communist Party hierarchy is being played down.

Zhou Guanwu, a protégé of the ailing Mr Deng, who fought against the Nationalists under his command in the 1940s, has suddenly been replaced as chairman of the huge Shougang Corporation, formerly the Capital Iron and Steel Corporation, which is a central part of China's state apparatus. He has also lost his job as party secretary at Shougang.

Some of the free-spending policies of Mr Zhou, 7, have been controversial and he has made many enemies, but his likely dismissal could be a signal for other reform-minded allies when Mr Deng passes from the scene. "That his ouster should come now, at a period of particular uncertainty, should not come as a surprise," one envoy noted last night. "His enemies may have perceived a weakness in the current diminishing of Deng, and struck." The move comes at a time of unease and the sense of the end of an era in Peking when China is also embroiled in what some diplomats call "clearly adventurous" activity in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, with the construction of military structures on a reef that the Philippines claims is well within its territorial waters. President Ramos has sent five ageing F5 fighters and jet trainers and helicopters to what in known in the Philippines as the Panganiban Reef.

Envoys say it seems strange that just when the Chinese leadership is planning big celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Japan in the Second World War, it should be undertaking such visible possible military actions against a weak South-East Asian nation.

They speculate that manoeuvring Communist Party officials may be taking advantage of the power vacuum as Mr Deng's strength ebbs away to order the move, possibly to win favour with some hardline military factions. Analysts say that the military, an integral part of the party, would never move on its own in such a risky way. Manila has a mutual defence treaty with Washington, but the Americans have already withdrawn from their sea and air bases at Subic Bay and Clark at the Philippines' behest. During the present dispute, the Americans have adopted a hands-off approach, advising that the dispute be solved peacefully.

Some envoys see these incidents as connected. In recent weeks, the Chinese press and television have been building up Jiang Zemin, 68, the President and party chief, as the core of a collective leadership to replace Mr Deng, a former ally of Mao Tse-tung, who later purged him.

"The trouble is no one is really in charge in the run-up to the post-Deng era," said one diplomat. "Jiang is not a giant figure and does not have the self-confidence to make major decisions. It is a matter of muddling through."

Gong Li, left, and Zhang Yimou on the set in Shanghai

Film lovers cut great off-screen romance

FROM REUTER
IN SHANGHAI

THE glamour couple of the Chinese film world, the director Zhang Yimou and the actress Gong Li, have split up, ending a collaboration that produced a string of award-winning movies, including *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Red Sorghum*, newspapers said.

Zhang and Gong were lovers, famous in China as much for their off-screen romance as for their controversial pictures that swept film prizes in the West. Now Gong, the nearest thing China has to a Hollywood superstar, is romantically linked with the China-based manager of a foreign company and has walked out on Zhang, the *Wen Hui* newspaper said yesterday without naming names. "The love affair between China's cinematic golden couple is over," it said.

"Yes, we've split up," Zhang was quoted as saying in an interview with the *Xinmin Evening News* on Thursday. "I respect her choice. From the bottom of my heart, I hope she has a happy life and success in her work." The rift came to a head during the making of Zhang's latest film, set in Shanghai in the 1930s, starring Gong as a gangster's girl who struggles through life as a nightclub singer. Gong was often late on set, took days off and lacked conviction.

China's huge demand for energy lures Americans

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

WITH a Sino-American trade war starting in Peking, Hazel O'Leary, the US Commerce Secretary, flew into Hong Kong yesterday on her way to China to focus on what she said was "the largest potential energy market in the world".

Ms O'Leary and her entourage of 45 corporation presidents and chief executives and five bankers go to Shanghai tomorrow and to Peking on Monday. She said that she intended "to put heat under the kettle to move projects", and her goal was "to get into the China energy market". Over the next 17 years, Ms O'Leary said, China and India would require 45 per cent of the world's capital investment in energy, and in the same period China alone would consume 20 per cent of the world's electricity capacity.

"My department has an excellent and cordial relationship with China," she said. "We are focusing on their needs long-term. I know there are difficulties over intellectual property rights, but all countries go through a rough patch."

Ms O'Leary, who arrived in Hong Kong from India, issued a discreet warning to China. "In India we have signed $10 billion of deals in the last year. American businessmen will go wherever the climate is best."

Japanese angered by quake profiteers

FROM GWEN ROBINSON
IN TOKYO

TENS of thousands of people in Kobe observed a minute of silence at noon yesterday, a month since an earthquake razed the central Japan city and killed at least 5,390 people.

As bells tolled on the Hyogo prefectural hall, workers at reconstruction sites, refugees at evacuation centres and people on the streets stopped and bowed their heads. Since the disaster fears of rampant profiteering and petty crime have deepened the sense of loss which at first rallied residents. Many of the 215,000 survivors left homeless are suffering severe psychological problems.

Grief has been compounded by unscrupulous entrepreneurs, who are charging exorbitant prices for basic goods and services. In one of the most notorious cases of profiteering, a company increased the price of roof tiles from 300 yen each (about £2) to 5,000 yen (about £3).

Others whose homes were destroyed are contending with spiralling charges for demolition and removal of rubble — before they can even contemplate the soaring costs of rebuilding. In a case which recently came to light, one homeowner was quoted 200,000 yen to demolish the ruins of his home, but the next day was told by the same contractor that the job would cost 1 million yen.

In response to such cases the Government has set up a hotline which received more than 400 complaints in three days. The Government also unveiled an extra budget of £6.5 billion yesterday to finance reconstruction.

Petty crime is another growing phenomenon. There are reports almost every day of looting and theft, and residents have said they are afraid even to hang out clothes to dry.

"There's a large number of refugees who have lost everything. Many just walk around the streets in a daze — it's not surprising that some resort to stealing, but it's very scary," one survivor said.

The Japanese media have reported that foreigners are responsible for the looting. Kobe, as one of Japan's largest port cities, has a large and diverse foreign population including Britons, Koreans and Chinese. One media report quoted a priest at a local temple who said that "seven or eight men, Iranian and Chinese, have been robbing homes and shops".

The Kobe authorities reacted immediately by posting large signs in evacuation centres, urging people to ignore the rumours about foreigners. But the rumour-mongering smacks uncomfortably of the hysterical wave of xenophobia which swept Tokyo after the great earthquake of 1923, when 140,000 people died. After the quake, residents went on the rampage, killing thousands of Koreans.

WORLD SUMMARY

US vote abolishes slavery

New York: Closing the book on the American Civil War, Mississippi will soon become the last American state officially to abolish slavery — 130 years after the conflict ended (James Bone writes).

In a symbolic vote on Thursday, the Upper House of the state legislature finally endorsed the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, which outlaws slavery. The lower chamber will soon follow suit.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, 27 states approved the 13th Amendment, which reads in part: "Neither slavery nor involuntary service ... shall exist within the US." Mississippi is the last of the nine hold-out states to ratify it.

Artillery mars Chechenia lull

Moscow: Russian and Chechen military commanders yesterday agreed to extend the five-day-old ceasefire in Chechenia by another 48 hours, according to reports from the region (Anatol Lieven writes).

The Russian news agency Interfax, however, reported several overnight breaches of the existing ceasefire, with Russian artillery firing on Chechen positions south of Grozny, and the Chechens replying in kind.

Peace deal in border dispute

Brasilia: Ecuador and Peru yesterday signed a peace treaty ending a three-week border dispute which caused several dozen deaths. The treaty confirms the end of hostilities and calls for an observer mission of representatives of the four mediator countries — Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — to supervise a gradual demilitarisation of the war zone within 48 hours. *(Reuter)*

PLO 'ready to compromise'

Jerusalem: Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, rejected an Israeli proposal that, as a step towards expanding Palestinian self-rule, he start running the West Bank town of Jenin while Israeli troops remain there. However, a senior Palestinian negotiator said the PLO was ready to compromise and accept a gradual Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank towns. *(AP)*

One wedding and a funeral

Bucharest: A bride and groom beat up a drunken Romanian priest at the altar because he read out a funeral oration during their wedding, the news agency Rompres said. It said the priest had been involved in a series of drunken brawls. *(Reuter)*

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British move to set UN funding levels angers US

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN has provoked the wrath of the United States by inserting itself into the middle of the acrimonious debate over American funding of the United Nations.

Washington is angry about Britain's attempt to negotiate a reduction in the US contribution that falls short of the full cut already passed into US law. To make matters worse, British diplomats are now readying a joint European Union proposal that would punish countries that do not pay their UN dues in full.

A further complication for the UN is the Bill, adopted by the House of Representatives on Thursday, that would force the US Administration to charge the United Nations for any unilateral American assistance to UN missions — a move that would basically shut down UN peacekeeping. Yesterday, the Clinton Administration condemned the 241-181 vote in the House, and threatened a veto if similar legislation passsed the Senate. William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said the Bill would make "coalition warfare" almost impossible. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said it would "eliminate peacekeeping as an instrument of US foreign policy".

Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, called it "a real step backward" and said that "taking aim at the UN and denying it the means to do its job is seriously derailing what little order exists in the world today".

The Bill seeks to cut America's basic contribution to UN peacekeeping costs from 31 to 20 per cent and further deduct the costs of American participation in any operation it would not have joined voluntarily. It would stop the President putting American troops under foreign command unless he certified that national security was threatened.

British officials describe the reduction as a breach of the United States' international obligation under Article 17 of the UN Charter to pay its dues in full. Hoping to limit the inevitable budget shortfall, Britain has launched a campaign to redistribute the costs of peacekeeping so that newly rich nations pay more and the one remaining superpower pays less.

The British proposal, now before a special UN committee, would set a fixed premium for peacekeeping payments by the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia. The premium is likely to be set at 10 per cent, requiring each of the five great powers to pay 10 per cent more to the UN peacekeeping budget than it does to the UN regular operating account. That means the United States would have to pay more than 20 per cent.

One US official said: "If they think this is something that can just be negotiated in half, they are not understanding what is happening."

Adding fuel to the fire, Britain and its EU partners are now preparing new proposals that would punish all United Nations members who do not pay their dues: delinquent members would lose other privileges much sooner, such as the right to place their nationals in UN posts, the right for their firms to obtain UN contracts and the right to be elected to various United Nations bodies.

Poland offered jet fighters

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Clinton Administration said yesterday that it was prepared to sell advanced weaponry, including F-16 fighter jets, to Poland and Central Europe's other new democracies.

The announcement underscored America's close military co-operation with the former Warsaw Pact nations, and seemed set to exacerbate tensions between Moscow, which is implacably opposed to Nato's eastward expansion, and Washington.

Earlier the White House had suggested that President Clinton would not attend a May summit in Moscow with President Yeltsin if the conflict in Chechenia was not halted peacefully. The summit was timed to coincide with Russia's 50th anniversary celebrations of the allied victory over Germany, and Mr Clinton's absence would be seen by Moscow as a snub.

Another serious new irritant in US-Russian relations which surfaced this week is Moscow's determination to sell nuclear reactors to Iran despite Washington's strong protests.

Clinton aide faces cash inquiry

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S battered Administration has suffered another blow with a decision by Janet Reno, his Attorney-General, to order a preliminary criminal investigation into the business dealings of Ron Brown, the flamboyant Commerce Secretary. Miss Reno acted after Justice Department lawyers looked at Republican allegations against Mr Brown. The investigation will determine whether she should request an independent counsel to prosecute her Cabinet colleague. Miss Reno's action may dash Mr Clinton's plan to make Mr Brown head of his 1996 re-election campaign.

The case against Mr Brown centres on $400,000 (£258,000) he received in 1993 for his stake in a consulting company, First International, in which he had invested nothing.

Nomatyala Hangana, a South African MP, arriving for yesterday's first 1995 session in a dress reflecting the Africanisation of parliament under democracy

Hardline Mandela declares war on crime and anarchy

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Mandela yesterday warned radicals not to press the South African Government to deploy resources it does not have.

"The Government simply does not have the money to meet the demands that are being advanced," he said, opening the second session of the new parliament.

"Mass action of any kind will not create resources that the Government does not have." Pausing to wipe his eyes frequently, the President said: "All of us ... must rid ourselves of the wrong notion that the Government has a big bag of money."

In a hardline conservative speech, Mr Mandela promised South Africa a crackdown on crime, corruption and industrial anarchy. He also emphasised his commitment to fiscal discipline, the reduction of the budget deficit and cutting the Government's share of the national income.

The President spent only a short time promising the former victims of apartheid that their lives would be improved. Warming to his theme, he gave a stern warning to those who tried to force more concessions by introducing anarchy to the country. To applause from the benches occupied by African National Congress MPs and senators he said "The battle against the forces of anarchy and chaos has been joined. Let no one say they have not been warned."

President Mandela also promised to "take the war to the criminals", whose activities were engulfing the country in a wave of "murder, crimes against women and children, drug trafficking, robbery, fraud and theft".

White rightwingers of the Freedom Front welcomed Mr Mandela's declaration of war on crime, but said that his simultaneous promise to advance the process of affirmative action in the public service would weaken the police.

Mr Mandela referred to the Bill to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, urging a speedy conclusion to the parliamentary discussion of it. But he added, as one who spent 27 years as a political prisoner: "Many of us who suffered as a result of apartheid are making no demands which would result in vengeance against those who might have harmed us or those close to us."

☐ **School ruling:** Hernus Kriel, the Western Cape regional Premier, overruled a decision by his Education Minister to close a school in Ruytervacht suburb that has been a focus of racial tension. *(Reuter)*

Euphoria fades as black voters seek rewards

BY R.W. JOHNSON

THE post-election euphoria that has gripped black South Africans is rapidly fading, an opinion poll conducted last December and January reveals.

Previous surveys found black voters expressing almost unlimited confidence in President Mandela's Government and a willingness to show great patience in waiting for it to live up to its manifesto promises. In effect, black voters were so thrilled by having a black President that they were willing to discount material benefits.

But this is clearly ending: 46 per cent of blacks told the pollsters that they wanted to see concrete benefits immediately, and 90 per cent said they believed they should see them within a year. In the past, too, most black voters had tended to find excuses for the Government's failure to deliver on its promises immediately, whereas the new survey, by MarkData, found a quarter of blacks now talking of the Government's "neglect", its "ignorance" of people's needs and its "unwillingness to assist ordinary people".

Overall, the poll found that 26 per cent of black voters think the Government has performed better than expected, but 46 per cent said it had performed "not as well as expected". The most striking result, however, is that 52 per cent of all rural blacks felt disappointed, which should sound a warning for the Government, which is encountering serious difficulties in many rural areas over the problem of accommodating the traditional chieftaincy to its plans for democratic local government.

While it was not surprising to find half of all blacks in Inkatha-ruled KwaZulu-Natal saying they were disappointed, even bigger majorities of such key ANC groups as lower professionals and blue-collar workers and those living in some rock-solid ANC areas said they were disappointed.

Asked: "What good things has the Government already done?" 36 per cent of blacks replied "nothing", a figure that rose to 50 per cent among migrant workers and in the eastern Transvaal. In the Orange Free State, an ANC bastion, 63 per cent of blacks could not think of one good thing the Government had done. This dissatisfaction has already seen Patrick Lekota, the extremely able ANC Premier of the region, voted out as regional ANC leader.

Meanwhile, 53 per cent of all black voters said that they had a grievance of one kind or another against the Government, with one of the highest levels of dissatisfaction recorded in the northern Transvaal, where the ANC recorded its highest vote in last year's election.

Many of these results will make sobering reading for Mr Mandela, although it is clear that he and the ANC remain hugely popular. Indeed, the irony of the results is that it is the voters most likely to support the ANC who are most dissatisfied. The least dissatisfied groups, such as informal traders and domestic servants, tend to be supporters of Inkatha or the National Party.

Mandela: taking salute at opening of parliament

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Hackett D. (KPMG), London; Hacon I. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Great Yarmouth; Hadjioannou P. (Kidsons Impey), London; Hadjithomas P.C. (Chandler & Georges), London; Haggard A.D.D. (Chantrey Vellacott), London; Hai Z.A. (Arram Berlyn Gardner), London; Hale R.T. (Touche Ross & Co.), Leeds; Hale S. (Touche Ross & Co.), London; Hales R.A. (BDO Stoy Hayward), London; Hall A.C.R. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hall M. (Charlton & Co), South Shields; Halliday J.M. (Coopers & Lybrand), Nottingham; Halliwell S.P. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London; Hallsworth J.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Ham A.J. (Rees Pollock), London; Hamilton A. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London; Hammersley S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham; Hampson J.S. (Touche Ross & Co.), Birmingham; Hancock K.M. (Arthur Andersen), London; Hancox A.J. (KPMG), Birmingham; Handley-Greaves D.J. (Ernst & Young), London; Hands S.A. (Ernst & Young), Leicester; Hanghoy S.A. (Robson Reed Layton), Truro; Hapgood R.M. (Price Waterhouse), London; Harding L.J. (Moore Stephens), London; Hards A.J. (Clark Whitehill), London; Hardy C.M. (Grant Thornton), Cleckheaton; Haria M. (Khokhar & Co), London; Haria S. (Kingston Smith), London; Harle C.D. (KPMG), Birmingham; Harman S.J. (Ernst & Young), London; Harper M.J. (KPMG), Swindon; Harries G.W. (KPMG), Cardiff; Harrihill D.A. (Snow Kellett & Co.), Manchester; Harris N.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham; Harris R.C. (Price & Company), Eastbourne; Harris R. (Price Waterhouse), London; Harrison E.A. (Ernst & Young), London; Harrison S.M. (Ernst & Young), London; Harry D.P. (Touche Ross & Co.), London; Harte C.E. (Frankson S.W. & Co), Hayes; Hartley A.M. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hartnett D.A. (Hugill & Co), London; Harton A.M. (Fraser & Russell), London; Harvey J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Swansea; Haskins M.J. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Leeds; Haslam P.J. (KPMG), Crawley; Hassamal S. (KPMG), London; Hassan T. (Arthur Andersen), London; Hatton T.R. (Dean Statham), Stafford; Hawes H.J. (Clark Whitehill), London; Haycock P.J. (BDO Stoy Hayward), Wolverhampton; Hayton P. (Coulson & Co), Scarborough; Hazard C.J. (Reelings), London; Heesom E.S. (Kidsons Impey), Birmingham; Henderson S.A.C. (Price Waterhouse), London; Henry S. (Pannell Kerr Forster), London; Heraghty D.P. (Butt Cozens), Colchester; Herlihy F. (Alliott, Rawkins & Holden), Preston; Hernandez R.F. (Beechams), London; Herring T.J. (Price Waterhouse), London; Hewetson B.A.P. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hewett G.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hewitt-Boorman M.R. (Chantrey Vellacott), London; Hicks L.J. (Price Waterhouse), London; Hicks S.C. (Touche Ross & Co.), Birmingham; Higgins R.G. (Price Waterhouse), Nottingham; Higson L. (Clough & Company), Bradford; Hildred M.A. (Pole Arnold), Leicester; Hill L. (Morris Owen), Swindon; Hillan A.M. (Stoy Hayward), London; Hills K.J. (KPMG), London; Hira F. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hirjani N. (Neville Russell), Lincoln; Hirst S.J. (Baker Tilly), Bradford; Hitchings C.R. (KPMG), London; Ho C. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hobson D.C. (Arthur Andersen), Leeds; Hodder J.P. (Touche Ross & Co.), Crawley; Hodes J.A. (Casson Beckman), London; Hodes M.R. (Casson Beckman), London; Hodges S.E. (KPMG), London; Hodgson R.G. (Touche Ross & Co.), London; Hodgson S.J. (Ernst & Young), London; Hodkinson D.S. (Touche Ross & Co.), Manchester; Hoffmann A.B. (KPMG), London; Hogg D.J. (Wagstaffs), Stevenage; Holdcroft A.D. (KPMG), Chelmsford; Holden M.D.L. (Ernst & Young), London; Holden M.B. (Grant Thornton), London; Holder N.O. (National Audit Office), London; Holland A.S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham; Holmes N.D. (Armstrong Watson & Co), Carlisle; Holmes S.L.A. (Moore Stephens), Scarborough; Hope L.E. (KPMG), Manchester; Hopkins S. (Clay Shaw Thomas), Bridgend; Horne S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Sheffield; Horner R.A. (Ernst & Young), London; Horobin M. (KPMG), Leicester; Horton V.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), Northampton; Houghton B. (Store R.N. & Co), Scunthorpe; Houghton W. (Binder Hamlyn), Manchester; Houlden J.A. (Wilson Braithwaite Scholey), Leeds; Howard A.K. (KPMG), Truro; Howard K.R. (Arthur Andersen), London; Howard R.I. (Arthur Andersen), London; Howard T.D. (Touche Ross & Co.), London; Hubbard P.M. (KPMG), Exeter; Hucker M. (Touche Ross & Co.), Jersey; Hudson C.C. (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Hugh J.L. (Arthur Andersen), London; Hughes I.R. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Luton; Hughes R. (Ernst & Young), Manchester; Hulme S.J. (Robson Rhodes), Manchester; Humphrey-Evans D.P. (Ashleys), Hitchin; Humphries M.S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham; Hunt L.C. (Touche Ross & Co.), Nottingham; Hunt M.J. (Price Waterhouse), St. Albans; Hurley D.R.W. (Haines Watts), High Wycombe; Hurlstone T.O.M. (Clark Whitehill), London; Hussain Z. (Hiller Hopkins), Hemel Hempstead; Hutchings P.D. (KPMG), Leicester; Hutchison B.D. (KPMG), London; Hutt N.J. (Arthur Andersen), London; Hutton J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Leeds; Hynd A.S.R. (KPMG), London.

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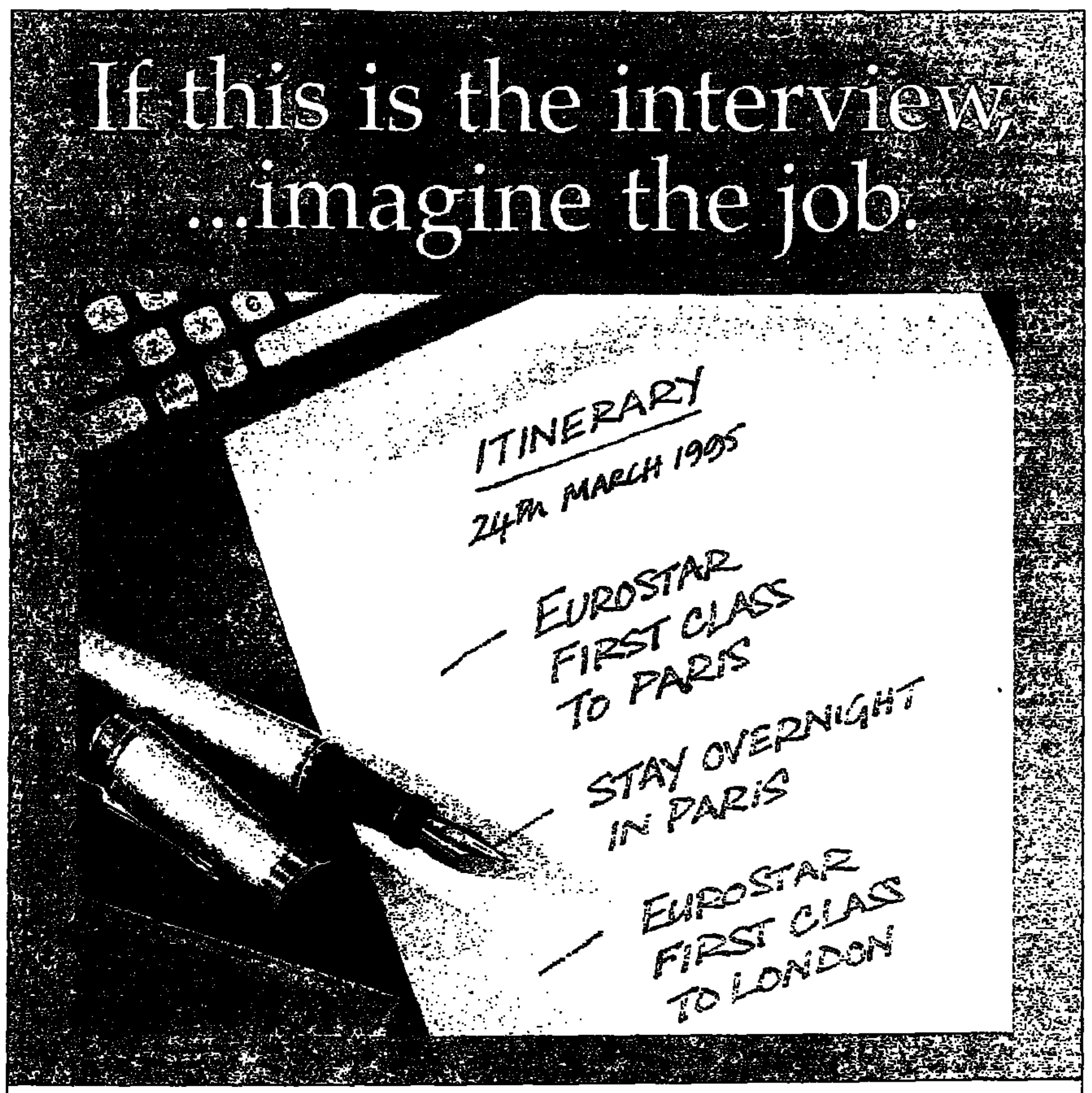
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Cadman K.R.Z. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Campbell M.C. (Chadwick & Co), Liverpool BP; Campbell S.A. (Morley & Scott), London CS; Carey S.S. (Stoy Hayward), Sheffield CS; Carpenter S.J. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), Leeds AF; Carter J. (Clark Whitehill), London BP; Carthew S. (Francis Clark), Newton Abbot BP; Casey N.P.S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Manchester CS; Cattell I.J. (Muras, Baker, Jones & Co), Wolverhampton AT; Challinor A.P. (KPMG), Stoke-On-Trent BP; Chamberlain R.J. (KPMG), St. Albans BP; Chandarana K.P. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Chapman J.E. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Chapman P.A. (KPMG), Bradford BP; Chard P.D.G. (Coopers & Lybrand), Reading AT; Charles L. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham CS; Chauhan S.S. (Hazlems Fenton), London BP; Cheung L.C.K. (Nash Broad Wesson), London CS; Chew W.H. (Arthur Andersen), Leeds CS; Chillery S.A. (Ernst & Young), London BP; Chockalingam R. (Auker Horsfield), Bradford AT; Choudhury S.S. (Lazard Brothers & Co Limited), London AT; Choudri N. (KPMG), London BP; Chumber S.C. (Javed & Co), Birmingham BP; Chung A.Y. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Clark G. (Hazlems Fenton), London AF; Clark K.J. (KPMG), Stoke-on-Trent BP; Clarke A.J. (Price Waterhouse), London AF; Cleverdon J.J. (Lakin Clark), Margate AT; Clode N.G. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Cardiff AF; Coe W.D. (Arthur Andersen), Cambridge AT; Cole S.E. (KPMG), London CS; Collier R.J. (Price Waterhouse), Southampton CS; Collier S.C. (Coopers & Lybrand), Leicester CS; Connor V.J. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London AF; Cook G.J. (Littlejohn Frazer), London CS; Cooper K.D. (Ernst & Young), Leeds CS; Cooper P.G. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Cooper S.E. (Cooper Parry Prior & Palmer), Derby CS; Corley K.P. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Costigan W.P. (Langton Morland), Liverpool AT; Cowley D.W. (National Audit Office), London AF; Craig R.J.M. (John Gordon, Walton & Co), Leeds BP; Cramoisan C.T.G. (Price Waterhouse), London AT; Crane J.R. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Critten S.K. (Coopers & Lybrand), Plymouth AT; Crossley A.G. (Simpson Wood), Huddersfield BP; Cuesta Y Sevillano R. (Coopers & Lybrand), Bournemouth AF; Culshaw M.J. (Hillier Hopkins), Hemel Hempstead AF; Curtin R.E. (Ernst & Young), London BP; Czura P. (Bryden, Johnson & Co), Croydon BP.

Dadlani S.J. (KPMG), London AT; Daryanani H.R. (Alliotts), Harrow CS; Davies A.J. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Cardiff CS; Davies J.W. (Ernst & Young), London CS; Davies S.J. (Moore Stephens), London CS; Davis S.M. (Coyne Butterworth & Chalmers), Dorchester AF; Davren K.M. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AF; Dawe R.A. (Bolton Colby), Staines AT; Dawson G.N. (Hemming, Vincent), Grimsby AF; De Silva K.A.G.T. (Knox Cropper), London AF; De T.G. (BSG Valentine), London BP; De Wilde P.J. (KPMG), Cardiff AT; Dean R. (KPMG), Stoke-on-Trent AT; Dearman D.M. (Pannell Kerr Forster), London AF; Dennison C.H. (Ernst & Young), Manchester BP; Devlin A.L. (Ernst & Young), Luton BP; Dhanda G. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham CS; Dhir P. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Dibley C.H. (Ernst & Young), Swindon AT; Divan R.G. (Baker Tilly), London AT; Dodd E. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Dowie S.J. (Ernst & Young), Luton AT; Dubois M. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Duffy N.A. (Arthur Andersen), London AT; Dunk B.M. (Crane & Partners), Bromley AF.

Eames R.M. (KPMG), London BP; Earl C. (Robson Rhodes), Crawley AT; Easteal C.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Edge C.W. (KPMG), London BP; Edmundson S.R. (Dixon Wilson), London AF; Edwards D.T.W. (Grant Thornton), London CS; Edwards M.S. (KPMG), Liverpool AT; Edwards M.A. (Gilberts), St. Albans BP; Elebute F. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Eleftheriou L. (Sorsky Defries), London AT; Elkins A.R. (Chantrey Vellacott), London AF; Elkins M. (Knox Cropper), London AT; Elliott H.L. (KPMG), Bradford BP; Ellis N.G. (Arthur Andersen), Bristol AT; Elston J.E. (KPMG), Birmingham AF; Emmanuel E.E. (KPMG), Bristol AF; Enfield K.J. (Arnold Hill & Co), London CS; Engel K.M. (Neville Russell), Poole AT; Eracleous A. (BSG Valentine), London BP; Etchells A.P. (Pulleyn Heselton), York BP; Evangelou A.S. (Stoy Hayward), London AF; Evans O.J. (Evans & Partners), Bristol AF; Evans P.A. (Halpern and Woolf), London BP; Evans R.A. (Price Waterhouse), Liverpool CS; Everett S.J. (Ernst & Young), London AT.

Faid E.L. (Coopers & Lybrand), Cambridge CS; Fairbeard E.J. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Family Y. (Ernst & Young), London BP; Farmer A.R. (Price Waterhouse), London AT; Farr E.A. (KPMG), London AT; Fenton R.J. (Touche Ross & Co.), Nottingham AT; Fewkes D.C. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Findlay A.R. (Coopers & Lybrand), Croydon AT; Finn G.R. (KPMG), London AF; Finn J.R. (Price Waterhouse), Manchester CS; Firth R. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Fletcher N. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London BP; Flouros M. (KPMG), Guildford AF; Foong Pen Ahlin M.K. (Guner Mustafa), London AT; Footitt N.M. (BDO Stoy Hayward), Poole CS; Ford S.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AF; Forrest J.M. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London AT; Forrester S.R. (Wilder Coe), London AT; Fraenkel A.M. (Hacker Young), London AF; Francis S.L. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Newcastle upon Tyne CS; Friedberg L.M. (Humphrey & Co), Eastbourne BP; Friedman I.E. (Leonard Finn & Co), London BP; Frost D.A. (Price Waterhouse), Bristol AT; Fry C.A. (Ernst & Young), Luton BP; Fulton J.R. (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol BP; Fung M.Y. (Kilby, Fox & Co.), Northampton AF; Furniss J.P. (Barber, Harrison & Platt), Sheffield BP.

Galbraith A.G. (Bishop Edmund Umbleja), Cardiff BP; Gammon J.E. (KPMG), Leeds CS; Gapper D.J. (Binder Hamlyn), St. Albans AT; Gerrard C.R. (Touche Ross & Co.), Cardiff AT; Gillingwater A.L. (Duncan & Toplis), Grantham BP; Glaister S.A. (Armstrong Watson & Co), Carlisle AT; Glastonbury H.D. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Luton AT; Glaze S.M. (KPMG), Birmingham AT; Goddin M.C. (Ernst & Young), Birmingham AF; Godsell J.M. (Touche Ross & Co.), Bracknell AT; Goldberg M. (Winters), London BP; Gool A.H. (Keyse Poulter Stern), London CS; Gosling N.J. (Ernst & Young), Ipswich BP; Gould S.L. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Goyal N.K. (Wickham, Hunt & Co), Hitchin AT; Gracie A.D. (Chantrey Vellacott), Watford BP; Grandage A. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AT; Grant P.H. (National Audit Office), London CS; Gray J. (KPMG), Swindon CS; Greaney M.C. (Wilder Coe), London BP; Greaves J.E.M. (Ernst & Young), Reading BP; Greenway N.J. (Baker Tilly), Crawley CS; Greenwood S.J. (Dutton Moore Atkin Gilbert), Hull CS; Greer H. (Richard Place & Co), Crawley AF; Gregory M. (Clark Whitehill), Cheltenham AT; Gregory-Lilley C. (Durrani, Pannett & Co), Horley AT; Grindle K.N. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AF; Groves J.A. (Geoffrey L. Johnson & Co), Plymouth AF; Gudka M.M. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Guilliano L.N. (Jackson, Holledge & White), Bristol CS; Gupta A. (Leach Bright), Guildford CS; Gupta P. (Knox Cropper), London AT; Gupta P. (Sachdevs), Coventry AF; Gurney W.R. (Grant Thornton), London BP.

Hall N.C. (Baines, Goldston & Jackson), Stockton-on-Tees BP; Halladay D.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham CS; Hanham I.D. (British Gas (Northern) plc), Newcastle upon Tyne AF; Hankin S. (Wilson Henry & Co), Liverpool AF; Hanks G.J. (Rouse & Co), Beaconsfield AT; Haralambous H. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Birmingham AT; Harding A.C. (Touche Ross & Co.), Bristol BP; Harding S.R. (National Audit Office), London AF; Hargreaves J. (Hays Allan), London CS; Hargreaves J.N. (Thickbroom, Coventry), Waltham Cross BP; Harris D.R. (Wilding, Hudson & Co), Sutton AF; Harris P. (Price Waterhouse), London AF; Harris P.E.W. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Harrison S. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Haslam C.A. (Haslam (Mark), Sons & Co), Bolton CS; Hastie J.E.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol AF; Hatton E.J. (Roberts McLennan), Woking BP; Hawken R. (Arthur Andersen), Reading BP; Hawkes A.R. (Chantrey Vellacott), Sutton AT; Hayward V.R. (Wenham Major), Birmingham BP; Hearn M.D. (Coopers & Lybrand), Maidstone AT; Hedge K.L. (KPMG), Preston CS; Henson I.R. (Ernst & Young), Norwich AT; Herring T.J.C. (Goatchers), East Grinstead AF; Heywood P.M.P. (Comins & Co), London AT; Hill C.I. (Hawsons), Sheffield BP; Hills A.R. (Arthur Andersen), London AT; Hillyard J. (Hazlewoods), Tewkesbury BP; Hitchcock E.J. (Walter, Wright & Co), Hadleigh AT; Hoad M. (Robson Rhodes), Crawley AF; Hodgen G.P. (Bourner Bullock), London AT; Hodges N.R.K. (KPMG), Bristol AF; Hodgson E. (Binder Hamlyn), Newcastle upon Tyne AF; Holmes J.P. (Arthur Andersen), Reading BP; Hood J.E. (KPMG), Stoke-on-Trent AF; Houghton J.S. (Arthur Andersen), London BP; Howard D.L. (Kingston Smith), London AT; Howard L.D. (KPMG), Manchester CS; Howes L.J. (KPMG), Bristol CS; Hoyle J.J.A. (Willis Parsons English with Schofields), Bournemouth AT; Hubbard S. (Roberts McLennan), Woking AF; Hughes A.L. (Ernst & Young), Birmingham CS; Hughes C.A. (Laurence Factor & Co), Hertford AF; Hunt G.A. (KPMG), Leicester AT; Hunter A.R. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Hurst S.M. (Coopers & Lybrand), Liverpool AF; Hutchinson C. (Smailes, Goldie & Co), Hull BP; Huth A. (Hacker Young), Hove AF.

Idnani D. (Ernst & Young), London BP; Ince D. (Touche Ross & Co.), Milton Keynes CS; Ioannou C.A. (Casson Beckman), London CS.

Jackson A.R. (Grant Thornton), Newcastle upon Tyne AT; James C. (Saffery Champness), London AT; James C.L. (Stoy Hayward), London AT; James P.R. (National Audit Office), London AT; Janjua R.R. (KPMG), Leeds CS; Jebson S.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham AF; Jennings A.R. (KPMG), Milton Keynes CS; Jones A.J. (KPMG), Birmingham CS; Jones A.C. (Phillips & Co), St. Asaph BP; Jones D.J. (Freedman, Frankl & Taylor), Manchester BP; Jones G.M. (Ernst & Young), London BP; Jones M.W. (Touche Ross & Co.), Dartford AF; Jones S.M. (KPMG), Bristol CS; Joseph M.C. (Binder Hamlyn), London BP; Jukes D. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham BP; Juniper H.J. (Price Waterhouse), London BP.

Kamaraizaman S. (Blick Rothenberg), London BP; Kelly M.D. (Ernst & Young), Douglas CS; Kemmett S.W. (Price Waterhouse), Newcastle upon Tyne AF; Kennedy C.L. (Arthur Andersen), London BP; Kessell R.J.H. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Khakhria H.V.S. (Cole & Co), London BP; Khalid M.Z. (KPMG), London AF; Kibble A.L. (Hartley Fowler), London BP; Kiely D. (Ernst & Young), London CS; Kilpatrick S. (Ernst & Young), Southampton BP; Kimber N.P. (McBrides), Sidcup BP; King A. (Rees Pollock), London CS; Kinney A.D. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Liverpool AF; Kirwan E.J. (Price Waterhouse), St. Albans CS; Kitchen V.L. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Leicester CS; Kiyani N. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Ko F.T. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Koh K.G. (Robson Rhodes), Crawley AF; Kooros Z. (Neville Russell), London BP.

Lahiri A. (KPMG), London BP; Laing C. (Binder Hamlyn), St. Albans CS; Laing E.M. (National Audit Office), London AF; Lakani N.S. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Lalloo A.R. (Sinclairs), London AT; Landauer R.J. (Arthur Andersen), London AF; Lane K. (KPMG), Birmingham AT; Laniado B.R. (Hallidays), Manchester AF; Lavercombe P. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Le Ray S. (BDO Reads), Guernsey AT; Leach J. (KPMG), Manchester BP; Leavy S.J. (KPMG), Bristol BP; Lee D. (Stoy Hayward), London CS; Lee R.C. (BDO Stoy Hayward), Birmingham AT; Lewis H. (Scrutton Bland), Colchester BP; Lindsay A.S. (MacIntyre Hudson), London AT; Lipscomb T. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AT; Liu C.K. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Llewellyn P.A. (KPMG), Cardiff BP; Lloyd R.M. (Wilson Silver Altman), London AT; Lloyd-Dolby N. (Streets & Co), Lincoln AF; Lohmann A.J. (Kidsons Impey), London AF; Loizides D.P. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Lucas K.J. (Howard Lee, Fellows & Co), Farnborough AT; Lucas S. (Casson Beckman), Newport AF; Lunn A.P. (Price Waterhouse), Birmingham AT; Lyall R. (Arthur Andersen), London BP.

McAlear D.J.H. (Sheen Stickland), Alton BP; McAleese H.L. (Wilder Coe), London BP; McCool R.C. (Clark Whitehill Josolyne), Bradford BP; McEvoy P.B. (Pinkney Keith Gibbs), Uxbridge CS; McGill A.D. (Moores Rowland), Sevenoaks AF; McGuinness J.K. (National Audit Office), London AF; Mackay R.G. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Mackenzie J.M. (Goodman Jones), London BP; McKenzie R.J. (Thomas Coombs & Son), Leeds CS; Mackinlay D. (Stephens F.W. & Co), London BP; Mackridge J.E. (Grant Thornton), London BP; McLaughlin N. (Little & Company), Gloucester AF; Macnab B.A.J. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Leicester BP; McNair G.H. (Booth Ainsworth), Cheadle AF; McParlin G.J. (Ainleys), Altrincham CS; Magee V.C. (Price Waterhouse), Hull BP; Magell A.J. (Grant Thornton), Bedford BP; Mah S.K. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Mainwaring R.L. (KPMG), Cardiff CS; Mair A.S. (Casson Beckman), London BP; Malik Z.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), Uxbridge CS; Mannall R.G. (Price Waterhouse), Leeds CS; Markides C.A. (Ernst & Young), London CS; Marok J. (Malvern & Co), London BP; Marsh A.H. (Arthur Andersen), London AT; Martin F.H. (Ernst & Young), Swindon AT; Maughan J.C. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AF; May G.E. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Metcalfe L.K. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Michael N. (Littlestone Martin Glenton), London CS; Miles P.L. (James & Uzzell), Swansea CS; Miller H. (Clark Whitehill), London CS; Mir Z.S. (Blick Rothenberg), London CS; Moor R.J. (KPMG), Leeds BP; Moore M.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Moosa Z. (Fisher, Sassoon & Marks), London CS; Morgan J.H. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Morgan N.F. (KPMG), Cambridge AF; Morland N.C. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Mudhar S. (Citroen Wells), London BP; Mullins C.A. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Murphy R. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Liverpool AF; Murphy R.V.A. (KPMG), Birmingham AT; Mylonas M. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AF.

Nachimowski A. (Price Waterhouse), London BP; Nancarrow C.E. (National Audit Office), London CS; Nayler A.L. (Hugill & Co), Waltham Cross CS; Neasham C. (Gilchrist, Tash), Middlesbrough CS; Nebbett S.M. (Menzies), Kingston-upon-Thames CS; Neill R.C. (Nash Broad Wesson), London AF; Nelkon N.C.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Newham C.R. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Newton T.A. (Larking Gowen), Norwich AT; Nicolaou M.G. (Lovewell Blake), Norwich BP; Nielsen L.B. (Arthur Andersen), London AF; Northover M.J. (Ernst & Young), Bristol AF; Norvell N.K. (Daly, Hoggett & Co), London CS; Nowak D. (KPMG), London CS.

O'Donnell D.M.J. (KPMG), Guildford AF; Oliver S.J. (Grant Thornton), Manchester BP; Olivero G. (Robson Rhodes), Hemel Hempstead BP; Onona E.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Osborne J.C. (KPMG), Leeds BP; Osborne K.A. (Moore Stephens), London CS; Osborne S. (Robson Rhodes), London CS; Osborn-Smith G.E. (Ernst & Young), Jersey BP; Osure J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham BP; Owen D.F. (Littlejohn Frazer), London BP; Owen D.G. (Whittingham, Riddell & Co), Shrewsbury AT.

Palmer C.R. (MacIntyre Hudson), High Wycombe AT; Palmer G.J. (Smith & Williamson), London AT; Panayiotou G. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Pantelidou M. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Papadopoulos A. (Dixon Wilson), London AF; Papadopoulos A. (Nyman Libson Paul), London AF; Parkinson K.J. (Hazlewoods), Gloucester AT; Parry S.D. (Arthur Andersen), Birmingham CS; Patel R.A. (Begbies), London BP; Patel R.M. (Chancellers), Hitchin AF; Patel Z.H. (Moores Rowland), Croydon BP; Patt M. (MacIntyre Hudson), London BP; Paul J.R. (Sproull & Co), Harrow AT; Pearson T.J. (Arthur Andersen), Leeds BP; Peart J.M. (Fisher H.W. & Company), London CS; Peebles N.J. (Whitehead & Aldrich), Preston AF; Peel I.D. (Ernst & Young), Newcastle upon Tyne CS; Pegg S.E. (Coopers & Lybrand), Norwich AF; Perkins E.L. (Ernst & Young), Leicester CS; Perks M. (Coopers & Lybrand), Birmingham AT; Petrie D. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AT; Phillips S.K. (Ernst & Young), London AT; Pieracki M. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Piers P. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Pike R.A. (Roger Peachey & Partners), Newport AF; Pipe L.E. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Platt A.S. (KPMG), London AF; Pope A.J. (Fisher H.W. & Company), London CS; Price D.C. (Grant Thornton), Bedford BP; Price G.I. (Touche Ross & Co.), London CS; Pringle S. (Bartfield & Co), Leeds AF; Pulfer S.L. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Pulley L.A. (Harold Sharp Son & Gresty), Sale CS; Purdy J.L. (KPMG), Sheffield BP; Pyle K.L. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT.

Qureshi S. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AF.

Ramsdale S.F. (Thornton, Harper & Relph), Preston AT; Rana S.K. (KPMG), Leicester AT; Randall J.M. (KPMG), Leicester CS; Rawcliffe S.J. (Whitehead & Aldrich), Preston AF; Ray J.S.A. (Latham Crossley & Davis), Chorley AF; Ray S.K. (Coopers & Lybrand), Gloucester BP; Raza J. (Carter Backer Winter), London CS; Reader A.J. (Hereward Philips), London BP; Recordon J. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Redmond B.J. (KPMG), Bristol AT; Rees G.S. (Coopers & Lybrand), Reading AT; Reeves M.A. (Ernst & Young), London AF; Ret D.M. (Fisher H.W. & Company), London AT; Reynolds S.C. (Touche Ross & Co.), Bristol CS; Rhodes E.K. (KPMG), Sheffield AT; Rich A.G. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Riddington S.G. (Pattersons), Ruislip AT; Roach M.D. (Touche Ross & Co.), Cardiff CS; Robertson S. (Touche Ross & Co.), Milton Keynes CS; Robinson B. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Liverpool BP; Rojas P. (Ernst & Young), Reading CS; Rolls M.F.S. (Leach & Co), Richmond AT; Rooke P.A. (Stoy Hayward), London CS; Ross H.A. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Ross J.I. (Shelley Stock Hutter), London CS; Ross S.E. (Arthur Andersen), London CS; Rosser R.C. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Rothwell N.J. (Pannell Kerr Forster), Liverpool AT; Rothwell P. (Touche Ross & Co.), London AF; Rowling C.J. (Touche Ross & Co.), Cardiff CS; Royle M.S.J. (Royce Peeling Green), Manchester BP.

Salmon R.A. (Cooper Lancaster Brewers), London AT; Samme G.R. (Kidsons Impey), London CS; Sams C.J. (Latham Crossley & Davis), Chorley BP; Saran P.S. (Stoy Hayward), London BP; Saul D.I. (Shipleys), London AT; Saunders S.A. (Coopers & Lybrand), London BP; Sawhny A. (Wagner & Partners), London CS; Schindler P. (Price Waterhouse), London AF; Scott K.J. (KPMG), Maidstone BP; Scott K.J. (Kingston Smith), London CS; Sergeant D.J. (KPMG), Darlington AF; Setty A. (KPMG), Reading CS; Shah B.B. (BDO Stoy Hayward), London CS; Shah C. (KPMG), London CS; Shah K. (KPMG), St. Albans CS; Shah K.K. (Price Waterhouse), London CS; Shah S. (Leftley, Rowe & Co.), Kenton BP; Sharman C.J. (Beatons), Felixstowe AT; Sharp K.E. (KPMG), Reading CS; Sharratt H. (Robson Rhodes), Manchester BP; Sheikh M.I. (Leach Bright), Guildford AF; Sheikh M.W. (Price Waterhouse), Birmingham CS; Shergill N.K. (BDO Binder Hamlyn), Newcastle upon Tyne AF; Shipton J.M. (KPMG), Leicester AF; Short T.J. (Gibbons & Company), Maryport AF; Siddiqi F.K. (KPMG), London AF; Siddiqui M.I. (KPMG), London CS; Sinclair M.S. (Ernst & Young), London CS; Sisodia M. (Coopers & Lybrand), London AT; Sizer G.K. (Morgan Brown & Spofforth), Loughton BP; Slack I.D. (Arthur Andersen), Cambridge AT; Smart C.F. (Smith & Williamson), London CS; Smart P. (KPMG), Leeds AT; Smith B.J. (Touche Ross & Co.), Leeds AT; Smith M.N. (Binder Hamlyn), London AT; Smith S.M. (Cooper Parry Prior & Palmer), Nottingham AT; Smith S.J. (Coopers & Lybrand), Uxbridge AF; Smith T.G.K. (Price Waterhouse), Birmingham AF; St. Clare J.M. (Walter Hunter & Co), Newport AT; Standing H.D. (Hillier Hopkins), Hemel Hempstead BP; Staniforth R. (Arthur Andersen), Nottingham BP; Stanton R.M. (KPMG), Birmingham BP; Stead D.R. (Arthur Andersen), Leeds AT; Stead J.R. (Arthur Andersen), Cambridge AT; Steinberg S.M. (Coopers & Lybrand), London CS; Stiles V.M. (KPMG), St. Albans AF; Storer J.H. (Stoy Hayward), Nottingham AT; Styles D.J. (Touche Ross & Co.), Newcastle upon Tyne AF; Summers A.R. (Slater, Chapman & Cooke), London AF; Surridge T.D.N. (KPMG), London CS; Surtani D. (Ernst & Young), London CS; Sutcliffe R.J. (BDO Stoy Hayward), Bacup CS; Sutherland S. (KPMG), Birmingham AF; Swaddle N.M. (Reeves & Neylan), Ramsgate AF; Swift E.J. (Shipleys), London AF.

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Why Europe has turned into a yoke

Britain has ceded too much to Brussels, says **Norman Lamont**

When does a state cease to be a sovereign state? A state might surrender much of its economic powers and yet have control over its defence and foreign policy.

If a state has surrendered much of its powers to make its own laws; much of its powers to determine its own taxation; much of its power to control immigration; and the right to control its own monetary policy, then the point has come when that state has ceased to be a sovereign state. It is difficult to identify the precise moment this happens when those who drive the process will not admit what is happening.

I can only give my view, as someone who has served in Government for 13 years, that that moment is now approaching. If we go much further, the Government of Britain will have more resemblance to the State of Delaware than to a sovereign independent government.

We are told "Don't be dogmatic". "Judge each issue on its merits." "Ask yourselves the question 'is this proposal going to further Britain's interests?'" The trouble is that it is not what we have done in the past. Instead we said "We mustn't be isolated". "We must retain our influence." If we accepted the test "Does it further Britain's interests?" would we ever have signed up to the Common Fisheries Policy?

'Standing still on an escalator does not stop it'

The truth is that many developments in Europe have occurred not because they serve any purpose, but simply because they satisfy some people's ideas of "building Europe".

Free trade in Europe is a good idea but the single market has been increasingly used by Brussels in a wholly bogus way to lever out far more power than was necessary to remove barriers to trade. In the name of the single market, Brussels tries to harmonise virtually every economic or social programme. We have already seen how our opt-out from the social chapter can be eroded by using the single market route.

Quite separately, from the Maastricht Treaty there is constant pressure from the Commission to harmonise tax regimes: excise duties, VAT, corporate taxes. Again this is not necessary for a single market. The United States is a large single market which has a number of different tax regimes, corporate and indirect. But that is not enough for the Brussels bureaucrats.

At least Britain can vote on these matters in the Council of Ministers. Britain has no control at all over the European Court of Justice. This body does not simply decide on the consistency of application of EU law in member states. It makes law. It has strengthened the status of EU law and thus weakened the status of member states' own law and it has extended the EU's ability to interfere in our affairs.

I therefore have a great deal of sympathy with those, like the Home Secretary, who in a recent speech expressed concern about the European Court of Justice. The court is one of the defining features of the EU. It is what makes it different from any other international organisation. Its supremacy over the member states and their legal systems is unique and represents a clear surrender of sovereignty.

The power of the Court stems solely from the treaties we have signed. In complaining about the Court, we are really complaining about the nature of the EU itself, and acknowledging that the treaties we have signed gave too much away. Curbing its power will mean revising those treaties. Those treaties have created institutions with their own life which have power over us.

Standing still on an escalator does not stop it. We need to get off the escalator altogether. The continuing momentum for European integration means that Britain will not be able to resist unless we are very determined to draw a clear and firm line.

The subsidiarity provisions of the Maastricht Treaty were meant to transfer powers back to national parliaments. That policy has totally failed. No powers of any significance have been repatriated to national governments. Instead the British people will go on being told "Don't worry, old boy. We're still winning the argument in Europe." That sounds less and less reassuring by the day.

There are few Euro-sceptics amongst the leaders of the other European countries. The leaders of Europe have not hidden their aims from their people. They profess it openly and wish to inspire their people with their vision of it.

We have signed up to a Europe which has a parliament, a passport, citizenship, a flag, an anthem and wants to have a single currency, an army and a foreign policy. Who can doubt that the ambition of Europe's politicians is to create a United States of Europe with a federal government? It is strange that those who say that the nation state is out of date are those who are keenest to assume the trappings of a nation state for Europe.

Britain must make clear that it will not hand over any more of its rights to Europe. We should say "no" to a single currency, "no" to the future of political integration and "no" to further powers to the European Parliament and the European Commission.

We must recognise that we may not be able to stop other countries agreeing among themselves that they want closer political union. If that happens we will need special arrangements for Britain. Whether that means that Britain remains a full member of the European Union or the Economic Area is a secondary issue. What matters is restoring the right of the people of this country to say how Britain should be governed.

It has been said that the British Empire was created in a fit of absent-mindedness. Let no future historian write that Britain lost its independence in a fit of self delusion.

The policies of women politicians are, by definition, unlikely to appeal to most women, **Janet Daley** argues

Beware the female thought police

Clare Short, Labour's spokesperson on women's issues, has proposed that all Whitehall departments be equipped with feminist inquisitors to "monitor" the effect on women of public policy. Tory MPs have labelled them "sex spies", which makes the whole enterprise sound far more exciting than it really is. But perhaps that just reflects the prevailing preoccupations of Tory backbenchers. The new invigilators would actually be the sort of dreary equality surveillance officers familiar to anyone living under a Labour council. They would enforce anti-sexist guidelines like Maoist thought police and report on the performance of their department in any area which could be seen to affect the interests of women.

But what are the real interests of women and who is best suited to protecting them? Or, to put it another way, what are the interests of *real women* and who is in a position to understand them? It should not be that hard to find out. Women are not an arcane sect or an obscure minority group: being a woman is perfectly ordinary and mainstream. In fact being a woman is slightly more normal than being a man, since more than half the population is female.

Ah, say the spokespersons, that is just the point. Although women make up half the country, their concerns are not given an appropriate amount of attention by government. They are drastically under-represented in Parliament and in the Civil Service and so their needs are ignored by men who conceive and administer legislation in their own interests. The only remedy for this is to get far more women into public life.

All of the premises in this argument are tendentious and its conclusion is invalid. Nonetheless, it is accepted by all the major political parties, who have allowed themselves to be bullied into adopting these absurd assumptions uncritically. There is now considerable pressure to propel more women into political life — in the case of the Government, to elevate women to the Cabinet, whether or not they are sufficiently experienced or capable.

And the Labour Party has taken to insisting (or "recommending" as they put it at Walworth Road) that females — however alien to the local ethos — are adopted as candidates by constituency parties which would prefer to field men. And all of this patent unfairness and enforced prejudice is done in the name of an argument which does not hold water.

When exactly did we decide to accept the idea that for any section of society to be treated fairly, its representation in government must be in exact mathematical proportion to its numbers in the population? We always used to assume that in our system, everyone needed a *vote* — a say in electing the representative who was there to defend his or her interests.

Providing that every citizen has a right to elect or sack the person who legislates in his or her name, the purposes of democracy — of governing according to the will of the people — should be met. Any group which cannot organise effective pressure on its elected representative to get what it wants must ask itself how much of the popular will it actually represents.

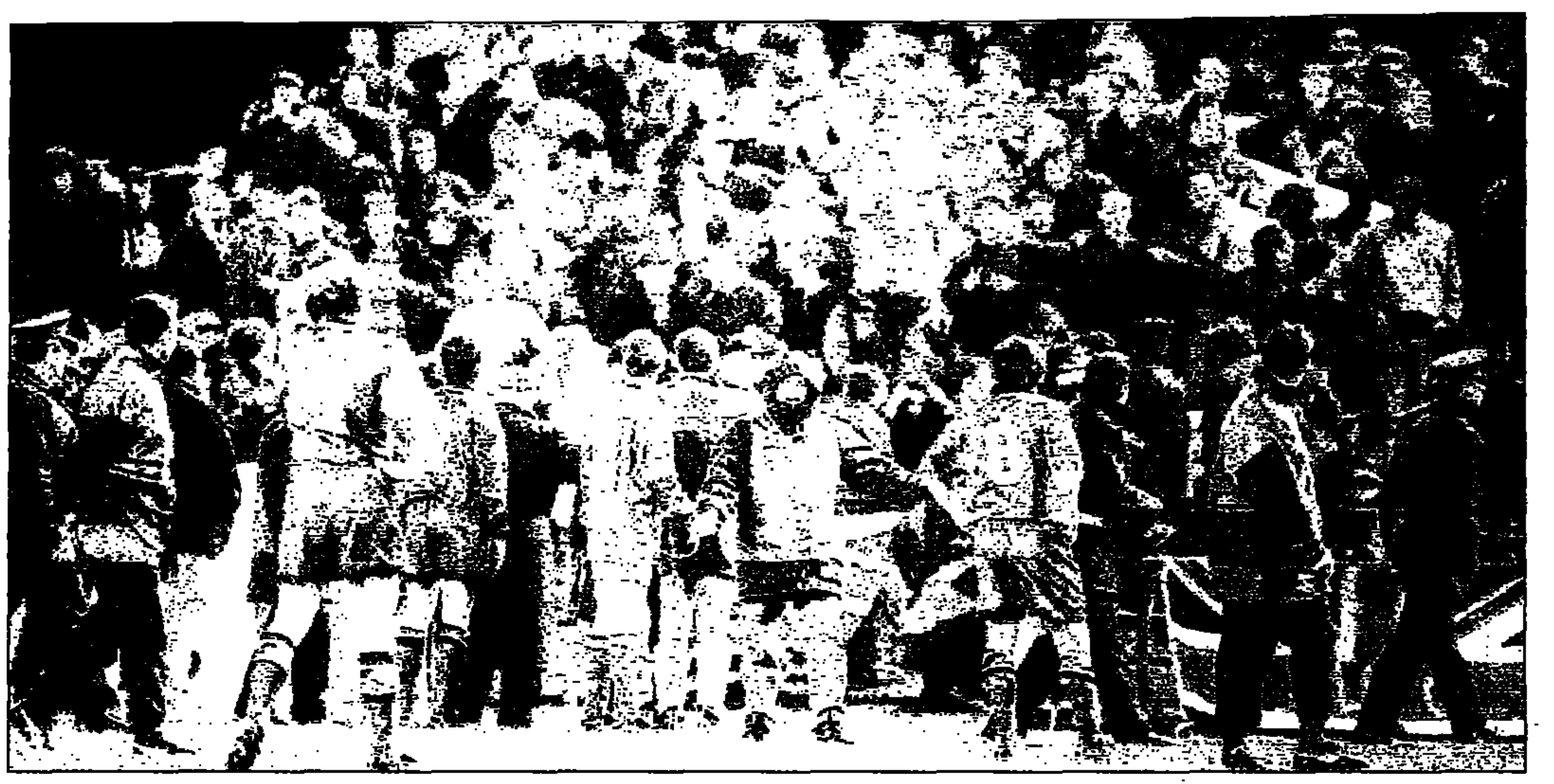
Perhaps even more basic than this is the fallacy that representatives who are like you in some significant respect — like skin colour, or genital plumbing — will necessarily be better able (or more likely) to represent your own interests. Did Clare Short herself feel that Margaret Thatcher was closer to understanding her own needs than is, say, Tony Blair? Do most of the feminist activists in the Labour Party feel that their views are shared more by Ann Widdecombe than by Jack Straw? Is a woman, simply by virtue of being female, more able to interpret the political desires of other women?

Let me propose the ultimate heresy: most women are not prepared to sacrifice their personal lives for professional advancement in the way that political careers demand. Thus, the sort of women who do make those sacrifices are, by definition, unlike most women. They are, if anything, more likely to misrepresent or misunderstand the conditions of ordinary female existence than men who are married to (or are at least the sons of) ordinary women.

Most real women, for example, want part-time work because it is compatible with the kind of domestic life they wish to maintain. But female Labour activists have fought to give part-time workers the same employment rights as full-time ones, which would mean that part-time employment would largely disappear. Thus do Labour women put the traditional trades union protectionism of their party above the needs of real women. Just as many female Tory MPs elevate their own prejudices above the desire of most women for progressive abortion laws. A woman politician will always be a politician first and a woman second. Which is precisely what will put her hopelessly out of touch with others of her sex.

Denying the gods of risk

Football violence is as old as the game and may even be part of its attraction



England fans in full cry: everyone who goes to a match knows there is a chance of trouble — but we all need some risk in our lives

In the good old days, the Irish police would have gone in to the Lansdowne Road terrace, dragged out the thugs, beaten them up, and the England-Ireland football match would have continued half an hour later. Not today. Instead we pay the thugs the honour they most crave. We call them political. We splash their faces across television. We summon political correspondents from their beds and ministers from their banquets. They all come running — at the beck and call of 50 hoodlums.

Within hours of the incident in Dublin on Wednesday night I counted no fewer than four ministers on both sides of the water plunging into the melée. An ashen British Home Secretary looked as if he was reacting to the outbreak of World War Three. He did not even deny a ludicrous BBC question implying that the incident was in some way his responsibility. I suppose if you go on television, you take responsibility ipso facto. Both John Major and Tony Blair offered the thugs their pennyworth of glory on the Thursday. I imagine a PhD thesis or two is already under way, not to mention an inquiry by a committee chaired by Gerald Kaufman. Then the BBC can screen the film of the book of the riot.

The only statesmanlike remarks this week came from the football officials, British and Irish. They said that these things happen in every football country: there was not a lot to do to stop it; it was sad the game had to be abandoned; the troublemakers were a minority; no, it should not affect next year's European championship finals in Britain. All that might alter that was if the media generated enough hysteria, which is what the media proceeded to do. We load the gang members with menace, publicise their names, disseminate their views and turn them into local heroes.

There is no way of eliminating the risk of trouble at football grounds. They are not churches. People go to the football grounds to honour the gods of risk: the risk of one's own team getting beaten is what gives exhilaration to victory. The thrill of a crowd in the mass includes the frisson of fear when it is disappointed. "Trouble at football match" is the oldest evening paper headline in the book, like "fight outside pub". Early football violence normally took the form of trying to kill the referee. In 1921 a Bradford ground had to be closed for its persistent violence. In the 1920s Arsenal and Spurs fans met in the streets of Highbury with knives and iron bars. Police batons charges on crowds were commonplace. One club took the view that a match should not be stopped unless the bottles being thrown were full rather than just empties. In the 1930s, pitch invasions and attacks on players and the police were often the subject of editorials even in *The Times*. As the existential philosopher Eric Cantona has wisely pointed out, if you tame English soccer you strip it of its essential red corpuscles. Every now and then things go too far. But to treat a few right-wing hooligans as if they were serial killers or a Colombian drug cartel is to lose all sense of proportion.

Simon Jenkins

Anybody who seriously believes that computers, identity cards, green ink, red dye and sniffer dogs will change all this has not studied "risk displacement theory". This states that most people need a certain amount of "risk" and will find it where they can. Every visit to a soccer game embraces an element of risk, inluding the danger of crowd trouble. Much has recently been made of "improvements" at English grounds to reduce disturbances. I am told that what has happened is that the disturbances have simply been transferred from the grounds to the streets and pubs outside, where they continue as before. The tribe will have its form of fun. I doubt whether local residents are delighted.

Next week the risk expert, John Adams of London University, comes up with another of his counter-intuitive squibs on this subject. Adams's original research was in the mundane field of seat belt and motorcycle helmet law. He questioned the figures that proved that seat belts and crash helmets reduced accidents. His answer was that they did not. They saved the lives of bad drivers. But by encouraging everyone to go faster and drive more wildly they killed more other road users, such as backseat passengers, pedestrians and cyclists. One test of this (which I recommend) is to get into a motorway fast lane at 75 mph and undo your seatbelt. You instantly feel unsafe and reduce your speed. Among countries that have compulsory seat belt laws, only Britain appears to have experienced a small decline in road deaths as a result, and that could be attributed to better road design. Drivers have compensated for the reduced risk of a crash by driving faster.

The classic instance of risk compensation was the miner's Davy safety lamp. The lamp cost more lives, because miners felt safer and went into more dangerous seams. Fatalities actually rose after the lamp's introduction. Adams's most recent work is on crash helmets. A number of American states have now repealed compulsory helmet laws. The effect has been startling. Fatalities associated with motorcycles have fallen faster (or risen slower) in states without helmet laws than in those that have retained them. The reason appears to be the obvious one: those who do not wear helmets ride more cautiously and have fewer crashes. (One solution to the dispatch rider menace in London would be to ban them from wearing helmets.)

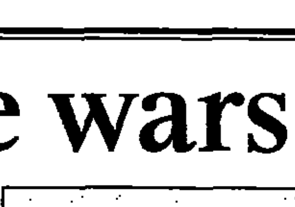
Adams believes that we have inside us a "risk thermostat" which we turn up or down at certain times of the day or year. We would not dream of using a London restaurant declared unsafe by government sanitary inspectors, yet we guzzle bacteria by the million in a Greek island taverna or Moroccan souk. We install ventilated lobbies to every lavatory in Britain, for fear of nasty smells getting out. Yet we hire an unchecked car on the Costa del Sol, ski off-piste or go white-water rafting. We jaywalk, take a brandy too many and eat fat-laden desserts. We are not mad, just instinctively seeking to restore some of the danger to our lives that government inspectors have all but eradicated. Like a climber nearing the summit, we turn the risk thermostat recklessly to danger.

Needless to say, a new industry is appearing to tell us we can have our cake and eat it. We can have danger, and our money back if not satisfied. It is called negligence insurance. One of the more risky and therefore exhilarating leisure pursuits, I am told, is cross-country riding. Riding schools are now being sued by people who fall off, sued because a jump was the wrong height, sued because a horse was the wrong temperament. This is the merry road to hell.

What is becoming taboo is the concept of the accident. We want the ultimate thrill, the risk-free risk. We want to gamble that if we win, we win and if we lose, we find someone to blame and to sue. Thus I detected a yearning on Wednesday to find someone to blame for Lansdowne Road: the Irish police, the National Front, the football authorities, the Government, someone to be "liable". Having found a culprit, they must be punished, be it a minister or a football executive or a policeman. If nobody is available, then let us punish the other spectators by stopping the game, or all English fans by stopping them travelling in future, or football generally by abandoning the European championship. Talk about a nation of wimps.

The message I take from Lansdowne Road is, get the hooligans to pay for the damage and forget it. Those who go to football matches know they risk seeing grown men behave like hoodlums. I assume they calculate that the risk is worth the thrill. It beats me, but then I climb mountains.

Clause wars



VIDEO WARS have broken out in Labour's ranks. Ken Loach, the film director and socialist has made a 10-minute video to counter Tony Blair's commitment to the abolition of Clause Four.

Loach is the director behind films such as *Cathy Come Home* and *Kes*. His latest effort, *Clause Four: the movie*, will have its premiere in Westminster next week. Its contents remain secret but the video will be shown on Tuesday at a press conference chaired by Alan Simpson, Labour MP for Nottingham South, one of the most vociferous opponents of Blair's plans to scrap Clause Four.

Simpson was not available for comment yesterday but his office described the video as a "short 10-minute riposte to the official party line". It is also a counterblast to 6,000 copies of a video distributed some weeks ago by Labour's headquarters at Walworth Road. Tony Blair and John Prescott argued in the official version that Clause Four, which commits the Labour Party to public ownership, should go.

Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, believes Loach's film will far outshine the Walworth road version. "It's going to be a lot less insulting to people's intelligence than the official party one on Clause Four. It's bound to be more interesting."

Loach has already threatened to resign his party membership if Clause Four is abandoned. Yesterday, one of his colleagues at Parallax Pictures described the movie as a contribution to a full and frank discussion. "Tony Blair is welcoming discussions about Clause Four. Perhaps he and the Labour Party would like to distribute the video."

● *Jeremy Paxman wasn't quite his unflappable self on Thursday night at an Oxford Union debate. Students teased the bossy question master of* University Challenge *by prefacing questions from the floor with "Your starter for ten". Paxman thanked his hosts for inviting him to speak: "An invitation I now somewhat regret."*

Rhubarb

THERE WAS dismay among regulars at the *What The Papers Say* awards luncheon at the Savoy yesterday. For the first time in nearly 40 years there was no Lancashire hotpot. Instead a curious concoction called Hindle Wakes was served up. It consisted of corned breast of Goosnargh chicken with an extraordinary rhubarb and basil stuffing wrapped in bacon, and was declared "disgusting" by a good many guests.

Even more disconcerting was the speech by the National Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell. Reading from a script clearly drafted by a civil servant in his department, he said "this morning" three times. It was actually after 2pm.

A statement in French issued yesterday by the European Commission would have delighted Eurosceptics. "The Georgian population, subject to extreme poverty since the collapse of the European Union..." said the announcement. It should have read the Soviet Union.

Trying again

AS ENGLAND and Wales step onto the hallowed turf at Cardiff Arms Park today, their Irish counterparts will be turning their minds to music. The Irish Rugby Football Union is searching for a new anthem for its team. The union's current anthem, *Soldier's Song*, is the national anthem of the Irish Republic even though its team is selected from Northern Ireland as well as the republic. This has caused disquiet given the current delicate political situation.

The Londonderry Air, better known as *Danny Boy*, has been rejected as a substitute and the union has approached Phil Coulter, composer of those memorable 1960s hits *Puppet on a String* and *Congratulations*. A spokesman refused to give details of Coulter's commission other than to say it should be "catchy and Irish" and that it should be ready for the World Cup series at the end of May".

YOU'RE TAKING THIS VOW OF SILENCE SERIOUSLY THEN
TORY
ROBERT THOMPSON

On the scent

CANINE press hounds from Britain are covering the O.J. Simpson trial now that Kato, the Simpson family dog, has become a star witness.

Kato is a rare Japanese Akita, which looks like a wolf. The prosecution claims that he was barking manically on the night of the murders and that his behaviour could provide vital clues.

The Chicago-based *Dog World* has already sent a reporter and Simon Parsons, editor of the British magazine of the same name, has joined the hunt: "We are following the case now," he says.

Don Touhig: a Spumante victory

Asti socialists

CHAMPAGNE socialism clearly hasn't reached the Welsh valleys yet. Celebrating his Islwyn victory on Thursday, Labour's Don Touhig reached for a bottle of bubbly and cracked it open. He chose not champagne, surprisingly, but an inferior tipple: Asti Spumante (around £5 from supermarkets), the sweet fizzy wine from Italy.

Political observers believe Neil Kinnock, his predecessor at Islwyn, would have plumped for real champagne. Mary Spillane, an image consultant, suggests that Asti is a no-no. "Maybe he's trying to project a new image. A better alternative to Asti would have been Brecon Water. It's hard to remember the last time you met anyone who drank Asti Spumante."

P·H·S

POLITICAL UNION

Major is right to call for self-restraint over Europe

Rarely has Kenneth Clarke looked so lonely or exasperated as he did yesterday, seeking to deny allegations that a rift had opened between him and the Prime Minister over Europe. "We've run out of ways of making clear there aren't any divisions," the Chancellor of the Exchequer claimed, conveniently forgetting that on Thursday the Prime Minister resisted the temptation to "make clear" this alleged unity no fewer than three times.

When challenged then to give public backing to Mr Clarke's claim that a European single currency would pose no threat to the nation state, Mr Major repeatedly declined to do so. It later emerged that the Chancellor had been "consulted" by the Prime Minister over a letter to Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, expressing their joint view that a single currency would indeed have constitutional implications. This claim marked a significant shift of ground since Mr Clarke's speech on the future of the EU to the European Movement last week, which drew a sharp distinction between monetary and political union. The Prime Minister's short speech to the Cabinet this week on the need for unity had evidently made its mark. Senior ministers seem to have resolved to keep their differences over Europe private — at least for now.

Mr Major's attempts to stamp his authority upon the Conservative Party have been repeated as often as they have been unsuccessful, especially over the the future of Europe. It will be difficult for a Chancellor who is an enthusiastic supporter of further European integration to remain silent on the supposed attractions of a single currency, an issue which is at the heart of his responsibilities. Nonetheless, there are good reasons for the Prime Minister's current strategy.

The first is that he appears to have clarified his own thinking on the EU in the last year. Mr Major came to office promising to put Britain "at the heart of Europe". For more than three years, he tended to take his lead on European questions from Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, rather than from the more sceptical members of the Cabinet. Since his speech in Leiden last September, however, a different emphasis has been apparent. In a television interview last month, he promised to resist any constitutional changes or attempts to impose a single currency at the forthcoming Inter-Governmental Conference. Ministers on the Euro-sceptic right have approved.

In making such a shift, the Prime Minister has moved closer to the prevailing view of Europe within the Conservative Party. The integrationist position supported by Mr Clarke has many influential champions within the party's elite, such as Michael Heseltine and Lord Howe. But Norman Lamont gave a more authentic account of Tory opinion in his Oxford speech yesterday. Britain's trade success and influence in the world is far less dependent upon EU membership than integrationists claim, the former Chancellor said. More radically, Mr Lamont argued that a moment of truth was now approaching for Britain when the nation must decide whether it wished to remain sovereign or "have more resemblance to the State of Delaware".

Mr Major would never use such bald language. But it is clear that he is beginning to perceive the imminence of this moment of truth. None of the options before him are free of hazard. If he allows his colleagues to speak their minds — and especially Mr Clarke — he risks irreparable party divisions. By demanding conformity to his own revised European policy, on the other hand, he may encourage defiance by senior members of the Government and ultimate humiliation. The latter course is far preferable, however. Better to demand Cabinet unity over a position which is likely to win support in the Tory party and among the electorate, than to allow integrationists and Euro-sceptics a degree of free rein which may easily descend into speculative anarchy. Mr Clarke stands rebuked; it remains to be seen how long he will keep the peace.

THE POUND IN YOUR POCKET

Britons worry too much about turmoil on the foreign exchanges

Over the years, the sterling crisis has become an enduring and treasured part of Britain's national heritage. We are all too liable to discern a "traditional sterling crisis" in every minor disturbance of the global foreign exchange market, such as the one that affected the pound, the dollar and the German mark this week.

Why Britain should feel so worried about the level of its national currency is not always clear. Despite the ravages of inflation since the 1960s, the pound has fared much better in the 20th century as a whole than other major currencies, apart from the dollar and Swiss franc. Yet we keep asking ourselves the same nagging question: if sterling falls against the mark or the dollar, does this mean that "pound in my pocket" is losing its value too?

When Harold Wilson told his television audience after the 1967 devaluation that "the pound in your pocket has not been devalued" he was ducking the truth. Ever since then, the people of Britain have associated falls in sterling with inflation, political crisis and falling living standards. The exchange-rate, however, is just a market price like any other. The impact of a devaluation depends entirely on the economic conditions and policies before and after it occurs.

When the pound fell sharply in 1981 and again in 1992, conditions were highly propitious and the effects of devaluation were almost entirely benign. Today, a further devaluation would be more problematic. Exporters and manufacturers are already operating near full capacity and are showing an unhealthy inclination to raise prices instead of expanding output.

A falling pound today might only encourage such inflationary behaviour, instead of supporting economic growth, as it did two years ago. For this reason, the Government and the Bank of England would be right to worry about a serious fall in the pound, and might even be justified in raising interest rates if this would help to support it. Fortunately, however, the recent fall in the pound has not been very serious — and if it became serious an increase in interest rates would probably be unhelpful, since the main domestic cause of the pound's weakness has been worry about the Tories' tenuous hold on power.

Like any other market price, the sterling exchange-rate is influenced by a host of factors, some of them completely unrelated to conditions within Britain. For example, the main reason for this week's fall against the mark was the financial panic in Mexico, which sent some investors scuttling out of North America to the supposed safe-haven of Germany. These flows are likely to be reversed in the near future, as investors take a more sober view of the Mexican crisis and recognise that the US dollar should, if anything, benefit from the outflow of footloose international money from Mexico and other risky emerging markets around the world. Germany, too, may look less attractive as the mark becomes over-valued and relations between German employers, trade unions, politicians and central bankers deteriorate.

Whether stability returns to the foreign exchanges next week, next month or the month after, the Treasury and the Bank would do well to stick to the abstinent new policy on sterling they have defined in the past two years. The exchange rate can never be ignored entirely, but a fall in the pound should only be resisted if it is clearly threatening to aggravate inflation. Even then, action to support the currency should only be undertaken if it is likely to work.

THE CONQUERING SARKEESE

A speck on the map wants to remain a speck

Were the Ealing studios not now dead, "Passport to Sark" would be a film to sow rapture in the heart of even the most despondent patriot. The itsy-bitsy Channel island David, with only 560 residents for the local *vingtenier* (or under-constable) to watch over, has voted to spurn the Maastricht treaty in an endearing gesture of defiance. The island spirit lives on in Sark.

Sark, fairer than aught in the world that the lit skies cover
Laughs inly behind her cliffs, and the seafarers mark
As a shrine where the sunlight serves, though the brown clowds hover,
Sark . .

The plumpness of these lines by Swinburne may prove difficult to digest for those of meagre sentiment; but for the Sarkeese they bear a well-honed verity. The island is truly a shrine to values which were elsewhere on the verge of extinction even before the rude irruption into Europe of Maastricht. There is on Sark neither income tax nor bureaucrats; nor even — *mon dieu!* — motor cars.

The island's resistance to a prospective flood of new European regulations and directives evokes memories of Sybil Hathaway, the doughty Dame of Sark in the five wartime years of German occupation. "What was good enough for William the Conqueror," she is reported to have intoned to the German Commandant of the Channel Islands, "is good enough for the yeomen of my island". Sark was then, as it still remains, a feudal place. The German officers there, in awkward tribute to her grandness in that little place, clicked their heels to her on their visits to the *seigneurie*. The present Seigneur of Sark — the grandson of Dame Sybil — demands deference of a comparable order from the faceless Maastricht-men in Brussels. And why should he not?

Michael Beaumont, who used to be an aeronautical engineer in Bristol before his feudal engagements beckoned him to the island of his forebears, takes most seriously his trustee's role. Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, has never ventured to Sark. And few of the Sarkeese are thought ever to have visited Brussels. Sark may have neither metalled roads nor the National Health Service. It may even (as Philip Stokes, a Deputy of the People in the Sark Chief Pleas, wrote yesterday in the *The Times*) have no constitutional lawyers. Yet it does have a will to live in the manner of an island. What was good enough for William the Conqueror is still good enough for Sark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Bombing civilians as a weapon of modern warfare

From Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff

Sir, There is undoubtedly a serious debate to be had about the place of offensive air power in modern warfare. Sadly Simon Jenkins ("Ban airborne terrorism", February 15) has missed the opportunity to contribute to this.

With the benefit of hindsight, few airmen would dispute the concerns raised over the timing and the need for the bombing raids on Dresden in February 1945, though this is to presume the luxury of freedom from the still acute pressures at the time to secure victory and with it a minimum of additional casualties.

No serious military analyst, however, would deny the enormous contribution made by offensive air power in World War II to accelerating the defeat of an abhorrent regime. This was true particularly in the attrition of ground forces (as in the Falaise pocket in 1944) but also in the destruction of strategic targets such as U-boat pens. That targets were not always well chosen and that disproportionate civilian casualties sometimes resulted does not discredit air power per se.

Nor is air power fundamentally different from other arms of warfare in this respect. The value of submarines to a country's defence is not disproved because of their indiscriminate use against merchantmen and cruise liners. And the casualties inflicted by mortar, artillery or tank in Leningrad during World War II, or Grozny more recently, are no less horrific than the destruction wrought by allied air forces over the Rhine some 50 years ago. Indeed it is of note that the appalling civilian casualties in Bosnia have occurred when the air forces of Nato have almost entirely excluded Bosnian-Serb offensive aircraft.

But the analysis is more fatally flawed. The days are gone when bombing was inevitably somewhat haphazard. Technology now offers a level of precision that allows minimal collateral damage. This, contrary to Mr Jenkins's assertion, was the position in the Gulf conflict in 1991. Such evidence as Iraq has made available points to mercifully few civilian casualties and the most heavily publicised of those appear to have been caused by a cynical decision to collocate an air raid shelter with a military command centre.

In the wrong hands any weapon can bring a mindless result — even the pen.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRAYDON,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.
February 16.

From Mr Bruce Kent

Sir, Simon Jenkins has raised pressing questions about war, law and morality. Over fifty years ago they were raised by Professor A. L. Goodhart, Oxford Professor of Jurisprudence, in a 1940 pamphlet entitled "What Acts of War are Justifiable?" Copies were issued to the RAF.

In it he stressed that the separation of armies and peaceful inhabitants into two distinct classes is perhaps the greatest triumph of international law. He concluded his essay: "It is to re-establish [the laws of war] in a world threatened with barbarism that this war is being fought."

Then followed Coventry, Dresden and Hiroshima and in a direct line Bosnia and Chechenia.

Is it not time for the establishment, as part of the International Court of Justice, of a permanent court with criminal jurisdiction and the right to apply the laws of war to states as well as to individuals?

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT
(Vice-President),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.
February 15.

From Lord Denman

Sir, Many of us who served in and survived the 1939-45 conflict will be grateful to the Bishop of Coventry for the wise sentiments expressed in his article (February 14) and for the words he chose to use in Dresden the previous day.

The end of hostilities in 1945 will be marked in many ways in the weeks ahead. May I ask the Bishop and those chosen to make public statements not to forget other non-combatants who lost their lives in the tragedy, especially the 30,000 in London's Blitz and the 200,000 in the battle for Manila. There are many, especially Filipinos, with us today who will appreciate our concern for their losses of 50 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
DENMAN,
House of Lords.
February 15.

From Mr W. B. H. Ashton

Sir, I have watched with interest and disbelief the way in which some politicians and media have skated around the morality of the bombing of Dresden.

Of course it was a crime. Of course we should apologise. The horrors carried out by the Nazis in no way justify our own appalling actions at that time.

Yours sincerely,
W. B. H. ASHTON,
20 Laleham Road,
Shepperton, Middlesex.

From Mr David Ellen

Sir, Will there be a service commemorating the thousands of civilians killed by Hitler's V1s and V2s in 1944-45?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ELLEN,
126 Newstead Avenue,
Orpington, Kent.
February 15.

Archbishop's plea on tax benefits for married couples

From Mrs Frances Savin

Sir, The Archbishop of York is right to draw attention to the progressive worsening of fiscal support for the conventionally married (report, February 14).

This is of particular concern to single-earning families with children. Generally those mothers who choose to remain in the home with their children, although under constant pressure to return to paid work, suffer considerable financial sacrifice. They lose their salary and consequently their personal tax allowance.

Our organisation advocates the transferability of the personal allowance to the earning partner. This would help all conventional single-income families, and it would help to alleviate the effects of the poverty/marriage trap.

Janet Daley, in her succinctly hard-hitting article of January 5, told us that a married father of two children earning £160 pw keeps £33 less than a single mother who earns £80. Why should she marry?

Your report quotes remarks by Denise Knowles, of Relate, the former Marriage Guidance Council, about love and relationships. There's nothing wrong with that: but something resembling equality in tax treatment would also help.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES SAVIN (Chairman),
Full Time Mothers,
PO Box 186, London SW3 5RF.

From the Director of Family & Youth Concern

Sir, I welcome the Archbishop's call for greater recognition within the fiscal system of the married state, upon which family stability and thus the future of our society crucially depend.

This could be achieved either by restoring the married couple's allowance to its full value and then indexing it along with personal allowances or by raising personal allowances to absorb it and then permitting one partner in the marriage to transfer any unused part of his/her personal allowance to the other.

The latter measure was advocated in the Government's Green Paper of 1986, *The Reform of Personal Taxation*, which recognised that at different times and for different reasons one partner to a marriage may be dependent on the other.

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES, Director,
Family & Youth Concern,
322 Woodstock Road, Oxford.
February 16.

From Mr Gary Simister

Sir, Perhaps the Archbishop of York would spare a charitable thought for the vast numbers of single people in the UK, when he proposes tax breaks for traditionally married couples. As a single person I already pay tax to support traditional families who bear children and claim child benefit, together with the vast resources needed for their educational and, if necessary, social security needs.

Perhaps the Archbishop should concentrate on the moral responsibilities of marriage and leave taxation policy to the experts at HM Treasury.

Yours sincerely,
GARY SIMISTER,
132 Narbonne Avenue, SW4.
February 14.

From Mrs J. H. Millar

Sir, I am delighted that the Church, in the person of Dr Habgood has, *at last*, come forward to support the principle that married couples should pay less tax than two single people living together. The whole fabric of a stable society should be built on the unity of the home of a married couple. It is just not good enough for an unmarried couple to bring children into the world without the responsibility of a serious commitment beforehand.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOANNA MILLAR,
7 Avenue de Grande Bretagne,
Monte Carlo.

From Mr Richard Clements

Sir, I agree with Denise Knowles, of Relate, that a marriage is the responsibility of the couple, not the Government. However, the Archbishop may yet have a point.

If the Treasury claims that it is interested in the producing of a fair tax system it may wish to note that when I married a student last April, and gained a married man's allowance, my wife, in gaining married status, simultaneously lost 12 per cent of her grant.

The economics of marriage under these circumstances is not sound. Unwittingly perhaps, the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Education have created a fiscal anomaly that imposes a penalty on devotion and commitment.

Fortunately, I am sufficiently advantaged not to have let the Government affect my dreams. On St Valentine's day may I proudly boast that I married for love rather than money and that should the Chancellor wish to test my commitment with a levy on love I would happily pay.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CLEMENTS,
6 Acorn Lodge, 21 Fulready Road, E10.
February 14.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Opera row

From the General Director, English National Opera

Sir, I construe Melvyn Bragg's article of February 10, "Stop sniping at the Coliseum", rather differently from *Dennis Stevenson and his Lyric Theatre Review* colleagues [letters, February 15, 17; leading article, February 17]. I would have thought that in saying the team "appears to be fixing it so that ENO is . . . undervalued", Melvyn was describing the likely effect of the publication of the review rather than any intention to damage ENO.

I can vouch for the deep concern both within the company and among our many supporters over lines in the review such as "a reduced role for ENO". Melvyn is only one of many who have come forward since the review was published to proclaim that they regard the people's opera house as an irreplaceable and essential part of British artistic life.

I respect the talents of the review team and am delighted that they make their support of ENO so clear in their letter — clearer than in their document. If last Friday's article has given a cue for this declaration, then it is anything but damaging to ENO.

Yours sincerely,
DENNIS MARKS,
General Director,
English National Opera,
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2.
February 15.

School merger

From Mrs Susannah Chapman

Sir, As the Headmistress of Charters Ancaster School, when the Girls Public Day School Trust took it over in 1988, I write to express my distress at *the recent turn of events* (report, February 13).

I can understand the advantages of a merger of Charters Ancaster School with Battle Abbey; the increased numbers make a stronger more viable school. I cannot understand why the GPDST can organise such a merger without transferring all the assets it acquired, when it took over the running of the school in 1988, to the new school.

Knowing the excellent reputation of the GPDST, the governing body in 1988 had no hesitation in accepting the transfer of Charters Ancaster to the trust. At that time the school was cash rich, with probably over a million pounds of surplus funds, since it had just completed a successful merger and sold one school site for building.

Seven years later, the trust appears to be discarding its liabilities — staff and pupils — while retaining the school's assets — land and buildings. Is this fair? It makes me think of a foster mother, who finds she has taken on responsibility for a child she cannot really cope with, so she passes her on to someone else, but keeps her clothes and belongings.

Yours faithfully,
SUSANNAH CHAPMAN
(Headmistress of Charters Ancaster School, 1985-89),
Dove House, Sutton, Suffolk.
February 13.

Must try harder

From Mrs Joyce Ransford

Sir, Seventy years ago I did another girl's science homework for her as well as my own (letters, February 9, 13). Hers had higher marks than mine.

It's being unable to complain that makes it so irksome.

Yours sincerely,
JOYCE RANSFORD,
Hillside House, Little Rissington,
Nr Bourton-on-the-Water,
Gloucestershire.

Lottery winnings

From Mr Andrew Bradford

Sir, The last time my wife won anything (letter, February 15) it was a £50 Premium Bond prize. She promptly spent £500 of her winnings.

The prospect of her winning the National Lottery jackpot fills me with dread.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BRADFORD,
Kincardine, Kincardine O'Neil,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.
February 15.

Rival discoverers of the Nile source

From Mr Guy H. Yeoman, FRGS

Sir, You report (February 11) that the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are to dedicate a plaque on the memorial to John Hanning Speke acknowledging him as one of several claimants to the discovery of the source of the Nile. I fear their proposed wording will only add to the confusion.

After their discovery of Lake Tanganyika in 1858, while at Kazeh (modern Tabora) on their return journey, Richard Burton was pressed by Speke to accompany him on a visit to the rumoured great *nyanza* to the north. Burton refused, but agreed that Speke should go ("to get rid of him", in his subsequent snide words). When Speke returned announcing his discovery, he again pressed Burton to join him on a second visit. Burton contemptuously refused, thereby renouncing any right to association in the discovery, leaving it to James Grant to accompany Speke on his second, successful, expedition.

Speke reached England before Burton and ungraciously broke his promise not to address the Royal Geographical Society in the latter's absence. But it is absurd to say he did so "without emphasising too strongly that he had been a member of Burton's expedition". His audience knew perfectly well that it had been a RGS-sponsored expedition and Speke made it clear that Burton was his leader.

Burton in due course fatally compounded his mistake in not visiting the lake by obsessively promoting his Tanganyika as the Nile source. It was left to Stanley in 1875, by his masterly circumnavigation of Lake Victoria, to prove Speke right. In fact, Burton never set foot within the central African basin of the Nile, while Grant scarcely saw the lake and never visited the source.

If the Friends will go to Mwanza on the south shore of the lake, or to the Ripon Falls at the north, they will find plaques that unequivocally credit Speke, without mentioning Burton. The date on any new plaque should of course be 1858 — not 1857 as in your report.

Yours faithfully,
GUY YEOMAN,
Crowden Lea,
Upper Booth, Edale, Derbyshire.
February 11.

From Mr Patrick Talbot

Sir, Speke and Grant had already walked the huge distance from the coast around the west side of Lake Victoria before they found the Nile's source. Jubilant and exhausted they made the journey down river to Cairo as far as possible by boat, not on foot, as your report suggested.

The full cable sent by the party in 1863, gives its exact location upstream of Khartoum, on the White Nile: "Inform Sir Roderick Murchison that all is well, that we are in latitude 14°30' upon the Nile, and that the Nile is settled" (quoted in *The White Nile* by Alan Moorehead (1960)).

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK TALBOT,
Hampton School,
Geography Department,
Hanworth Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr M. S. Taylor

Sir, John Hanning Speke's companion and "rival" Sir Richard Burton is buried in a most unusual tomb in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Mortlake. Unfortunately the large stone tent-like canopy which forms the tomb is decaying through neglect.

Might some of the attention being given to Speke be shared with Burton, without whom Speke's explorations might have been less successful?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. TAYLOR,
18a Warwick Road, W5.
February 13.

Football hooligans

From the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

Sir, The fact that those who plan premeditated football violence have to go abroad for their activities strengthens, rather than weakens, the arguments for holding the European Championships in this country in 1996 [reports, February 16, 17; letters, February 17].

Recent experience suggests that British police and football authorities have a strong grasp of the problem of travelling football thugs — one can only imagine how much worse the problem might become without passport controls.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DOBBS,
Deputy Chairman,
Conservative and Unionist Party,
32 Smith Square, SW1.
February 16.

Border-crossing

From Mr Richard Vivian

Sir, Should we now be referring to the new President of the European Commission as Jacques Sans Frontières?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD VIVIAN,
Flat 3, 37 Dafforne Road, SW17.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: The Duke of Edinburgh today visited West Yorkshire and was received by Mr David Fearnley (Vice Lord-Lieutenant).

His Royal Highness visited the Leeds Market Buildings: the Minsthorpe High School and Community College, Pontefract: Dean Clough, Halifax: and Farnell Electronics, Leeds. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Earl of Lindsay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Departure of The Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia and Mrs Shevardnadze and bade farewell to His Excellency and Mrs Shevardnadze on behalf of Her Majesty.

Royal engagements

Today
Prince Edward will attend the Rugby Football Union match between Wales and England at Cardiff Arms Park at 12.30.

Tomorrow
Prince Edward, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend the Premier Collections exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham, at 12.30; and, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend a dinner at the National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, at 7.30.

Mountbatten Festival of Music 1995

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Ross, KCB, OBE, Commandant General Royal Marines, was the host at the Mountbatten Festival of Music, given by the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines in the Royal Albert Hall on February 15, 16 and 17, 1995. The principal guests were: King Harald V of Norway, GCVO, Honorary Colonel Royal Marines, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, CBE, and Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, LVO, DSC, Life Colonel Commandant Royal Marines.

Memorial service

Miss Margaret Bowden
A memorial service for Miss Margaret Bowden, a former Headmistess of Francis Holland School, London, was held yesterday at St Mary's, Bourne Street. The Rev William Scott, school chaplain, officiated and Helen Lovett-Turner and Lisa Reuben, headgirls, said prayers. Mr George Hilton, nephew, and Mrs Jennifer Anderson, Headmistress of Francis Holland School, read the lessons.

Miss Rhoda Colvile, Ms Marty Cruickshank, Mrs Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall, Ms Clare Ford-Wille and Miss Prudence Scrivener paid tribute.

The School Choir sang the first performance of Mr Glynn Jenkins's *Qui meditabitur in lege Domini* accompanied by Mr Jenkins, organ.

Kathleen Tynan

A memorial service for Kathleen Tynan will be held on February 27, at 3.30pm at St Pauls Church, Covent Garden, Bedford Street.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Queen Mary I, reigned 1553-58, Greenwich, 1516; Robert Henry, historian, St Ninian's, Stirlingshire, 1718; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, Italy, 1743; Henry Martyn, missionary, Truro, 1781; Marshall Hall, physician, Basford, Nottinghamshire, 1790; George Peabody, American philanthropist, South Danvers, Massachusetts, 1795; Ramakrishna, Hindu mystic, Hooghly, Bengal, 1836; Ernst Mach, physicist, Chirlitz-Turas, Austria, 1838; Sholem Aleichem (Solomon Rabinowitz), Yiddish and Hebrew writer, Ukraine, 1859; Tom Walls, actor-producer, Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, 1883; Andrés Segovia, guitarist, Linares, Spain, 1894; André Breton, poet and critic, pioneer of Surrealism, Tinchebray, France, 1896; Enzo Ferrari, racing car manufacturer, Modena, 1898.

DEATHS: Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, physician and theologian, Grenoble, 1535; Martin Luther, Protestant reformer, Eisleben, Germany, 1546; Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Rome, 1564; James Corbett (Gentleman Jim), World heavyweight boxing champion 1892-97, New York, 1933; Robert Oppenheimer, physicist and pioneer of the atom bomb, Princeton, New Jersey, 1967; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Florence, 1975.

John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* was published, 1678.

A direct telegraph link was established between Britain and New Zealand, 1876.

The planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, America, 1930.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Nicolaus Copernicus, astronomer, Thorun, Poland, 1473; David Garrick, actor-manager, Hereford, 1717; Luigi Boccherini, composer, Lucca, Italy, 1743; Sir William Fairbairn, engineer, Kelso, 1789; Sir Roderic Murchison, geologist, Tarradale, Highland, 1792; Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederstron, soprano, Madrid, 1843; Svante Arrehenius, chemist, Nobel laureate 1903, Uppsala, Sweden, 1859; Sven Hedin, Asian explorer, Stockholm, 1865; Alvaro Obregón, revolutionary President of Mexico 1920-24 and 1928, Alamos, Mexico, 1880; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, New York City, 1893; Sir Cedric Hardwicke, actor, Lye, Worcestershire, 1893; Merle Oberon, actress, Bombay, 1911; Carson McCullers, novelist, Columbus, Georgia, 1917; Lee Marvin, actor, New York, 1924.

DEATHS: Elizabeth Carter, poet, Deal, Kent, 1806; Georg Büchner, dramatist, Zurich, 1837; Bernard Barton, poet, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 1849; Blondin (Jean-François Gravelet), acrobat and tightrope walker, London, 1897; Ernst Mach, physicist, Haar, Germany, 1916; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1951; Knut Hamsun, novelist, Nobel laureate 1920, Grimstad, Norway, 1952; John Grierson, documentary film maker, Bath, 1972.

Napoleon Bonaparte established himself as the First Consul after overthrowing the French Government, 1800.

Bread riots took place in Liverpool, 1855.

The Women's Institute was founded by Mrs Hoodless in Ontario, Canada, 1897. It was introduced to Britain during World War I.

Independence for Cyprus was guaranteed by an agreement signed in London by Britain, Turkey and Greece, 1959.

STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Sir Angus Stirling, left, chairman of the National Trust, and Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, help children from Rams Episcopal Primary School, Hackney, east London, to make costumes for the centenary year production of the Young National Trust Theatre, which the bank is sponsoring for the seventh year

Dinners

HM Government
Sir Hector Monro, Minister for Agriculture and the Environment at the Scottish Office, and Lady Monro were the hosts at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Bute House, Edinburgh, for Scottish agricultural editors and correspondents.

Royal College of Radiologists
Sir Christopher Paine, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Lady Paine were the hosts last night at a dinner held at 38 Portland Place.

Appointments

Mr Chris Green to be Chief Executive of English Heritage from March 1. He succeeds Miss Jennifer Page who is to be Chief Executive of the Millennium Commission.

Mr John Fraser Crocker to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

District Judge Rubery to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Professor Barry Cunliffe and Professor Wendy Davies to be Governors of the Museum of London.

Mr John Tusa and Mr Henry Davis to be vice-chairmen of the London International String Quartet Competition.

Weekend birthdays

The Duke of York celebrates his 35th birthday tomorrow.

Today
Mr Rob Andrew, rugby player, 32; Mr M. Argent, Chief Constable, North Wales, 50; Mr Michael Buerk, broadcaster, 49; Miss Phyllis Calvert, actress, 80; Mr José Maria Canizares, golfer, 48; Miss Jean E. Cooke, painter, 68; Miss Sinead Cusack, actress, 47; Mr Roy Dean, diplomat, 68; Mr Phillip DeFreitas, cricketer, 29; Mr Len Deighton, author, 66; Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Dunstan, 72; Professor E.G. Edwards, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 81; Mr Milos Forman, film director, 63; Sir Charles Frossard, former Bailiff of Guernsey, 73; Sir Eric Gairy, former Prime Minister of Grenada, 73; Mr Graeme Garden, actor and comedian, 52; Miss Tessa Hilton, editor, *Sunday Mirror*, 44; Dr J.C. Houston, former Dean, United Medical and Dental Schools, Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, 78.

Mr Colin Jackson, athlete, 28; Sir Peter Laurence, diplomat, 82; Miss Prue Leith, cookery writer and caterer, 55; Sir Michael Lickiss, accountant, 61; Mr Peter Luff, MP, 40; Professor William McKane, former Principal, St Mary's College, St Andrews University, 74; Sir Arthur Norman, former chairman, World Wide Fund for Nature, UK, 78; Mr Swraj Paul, company chairman, 64; Mr Bobby Robson, former manager, England Football team, 62; Miss Cybill Shepherd, actress, 45; Mr Ned Sherrin, producer, director and writer, 64; Sir Max Williams, solicitor, 69; Lieutenant-General Sir John Wilsey, 56.

Tomorrow
Mr Peter Baldwin, chief executive, Radio Authority, 68; Sir John Collyear, engineer, 68; the Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 89; Mr Peter du Sautoy, publisher, 83; Sir Nicholas Fenn, diplomat, 59; Lord Forbes, 77; Mr John Freeman, former MP, diplomat and chairman, London Weekend Television, 80; Lord Henniker, 79; the Right Rev R.S. Hook, former Bishop of Bradford, 78; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis player, 33; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 80; Mr Nigel Nicholls, Clerk of the Privy Council, 57.

Sir Daniel Pettit, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 80; Mrs Erin Pizzey, author and founder of first shelter for battered wives, 56; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 55; Mr Colin Sharman, UK senior partner, KPMG, 52; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 56; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT (Holdings), 66.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Appointments

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

The Rev Kenneth Macaulay has been granted a warrant to officiate in the diocese from February 1.

The Rev Dean J.B. Fostekew, former Curate at Boyne Hill (Oxford), to be Priest-in-Charge in Annan and Lockerbie from April 1.

The Rev Roger Cutler, a former Naval Chaplain, to be for one year an Honorary Assistant Priest with permission to officiate at All Saint's, Challoch.

Vincent James Perricone, a former Catholic Priest, has been received into the Scottish Episcopal Church and granted a warrant attached to St Mary's Cathedral.

The Rev David Doveton, lecturer at the College of Transfiguration, Grahamstown, South Africa, has permission to officiate in the diocese for one year while studying at Glasgow University.

The Rev Canon Gavin White, previously NSM at St Margaret's, Newlands, has permission to officiate in the diocese.

The Rev Jill Locock has permission to officiate at St Augustine's, Dumbarton, until June 23.

The Rev Donald Reid, former Rector at St John's, Baillieston, with St Serf's, Shettleston, has begun work as Anglican Chaplain to Glasgow University and is attached to St Mary's Cathedral.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J.J.S. Ambler and Dr L.C. Edmunds
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs J. Ambler, of Moorgreen, Nottingham, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J.C. Edmunds, of Woking, Surrey.

Mr R.J.A. Belle-Fortune and Miss R.F.M. Wymbs
The engagement is announced between Roger, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.T. Fortune, of Enfield, Middlesex, and Ruth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.V. Wymbs, of Clapham, London.

Mr M.D. Biddle and Miss H.I. Addison
The engagement is announced between Matthew David, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Biddle, of Abbots Leigh, Bristol, and Heather Isabella, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Addison, of Shortlands, Kent.

Mr R.N. Blackburn and Miss L.A. Williamson
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Dr and Mrs Alan Blackburn, of Coulby Newham, Cleveland, and Lindsay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Williamson, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr G.W. Blümmers and Miss J.A. Isbister
The engagement is announced between Gerhard Werner, son of Mrs Modesta Blümmers and the late Mr Gerhard Blümmers, of Singapore, and Jane Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. St Clair Isbister, of Stirling.

Mr N.E. Foster and Miss J.M. Abbott
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Squadron Leader and Mrs J.E. Foster, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Juliet, daughter of Dr and Mrs B.W. Abbott, of Stafford, Staffordshire.

M C. Marlin and Miss R. Sutton
The engagement is announced between Rachel, daughter of Dr and Mrs George Sutton, of Cobham, Surrey, and Christian, son of M and Mme Pierre Marlin, of Charnay-lès-Mâcon, France.

Mr S.C. Partridge and Miss H.R. Barnes
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs C.J. Partridge, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Helena, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs P.K. Barnes, of East Sheen, London.

Mr R.E. Weeks and Miss C.I. Gilmore
The engagement is announced between Ronnie, son of the late Mr Peter Weeks and of Mrs Weeks, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Irene, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Gilmore, of Barassie, Ayrshire.

Mr J. Archard and Miss E. Mackay
The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Archard, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, and Emma, elder daughter of Commander S.V. Mackay, RN, and Mrs S.L. Mackay, of Chantilly, France.

Mr A.W.P. Cooper and Miss S.J. McDonald
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cooper, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and Susanne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John McDonald, of Co Kildare, Ireland.

Mr E.C. de Waal and Miss E.H.L. Cox
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Sir Henry and Lady de Waal, of London, SW1, and Emma, daughter of the late Mr Graham Cox and of Mrs Sarah Cox, of Kingswood, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Hipwell and Miss K.J.F. Anderson
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hipwell, of Affpuddle, Dorset, and Katharine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Anderson, of Rotherwick, Hampshire.

Mr N.P. Langford-Holt and Señorita B. Gala Gutierrez
The engagement is announced between Paget, son of the late Sir John Langford-Holt and of Mrs John Pawle, of Widford, Hertfordshire, and Belén, younger daughter of Don Juan Gala de la Vega and Doña Pilar Gutierrez de la Cuesta, of Madrid, Spain.

Mr A.P. Noble and Miss V.P.S. Mustoe
The engagement is announced between Andrew Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs Philip Noble, of Cambridge, and Virginia Patra Susan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel John Lake Mustoe, of Thurleigh, Bedfordshire.

Mr S. Petherick and Miss A. Olivier Wright
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Petherick, of Plymouth, Devon, and Annabel, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Victor James Wright, of Isleworth, Middlesex.

Mr P.A. Worthington and Miss R.J. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Dr Guy Worthington, of Hutton Buscell, Scarborough, and Mrs Eileen Rose, of Filey, and Becky, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Wilson, of Dorridge, Solihull.

Church services tomorrow

Eighth Sunday before Easter

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Sumsion in F, The Provost; 6.30 Choral E, Second Service (Byrd), The Provost.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Ven J Barton; 4 Choral E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, O clap your hands (Vaughan Williams); 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, Canon M Taylor; 4 Choral E, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon M Kitchener.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Kyrie/O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Radcliffe), Stanford in G, Blessed city (Bairstow).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Bogoroditse Devo (Rachmaninov), Rev R Symon; 2 Baptism; 3.15 E, Responses (Sumsion), Walmisley in D minor, My soul there is a country (Parry); 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Allegretto/Allegro maestoso e vivace (Mendelssohn), Schubert in A flat.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev J Jones; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Mass a 5 (Byrd), Canon D Lowman; 6 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), St Paul's Service (Howells), Greater love (Ireland).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in G, The Lord's delight (Nares), Responses (Morley); 11 S Euch, Schubert in C, O sacrum convivium (Tallis), The Dean; 3.30 E, Andrews in D, O sing unto the Lord (Purcell).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Gabrieli in F, Ave Maria (Bouzignac), Rev C Gregory; 3 Guides Service; 5.30 E, God be in my head (Rutter), Responses (Tomkins), Brewer in E flat, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Missa dies sanctificatus (Palestrina), Rev M Parker; 10 M, Canon D Brown; 3.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Dyson in F, O Lorde the maker of al thing (Joubert).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Euge bono (Tye), Benedictus (Gibbons), Versa est in luctum (Lobo), Ven D Fleming; 3.45 E, Preces (Tomkins), Magnificat quinti toni (Ortiz), Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei (Purcell).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Leighton in D, The Dean; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, How dear are thy Counsels (Crotch), The Precentor; 3 E, St Gregory's Choir, Dewlish, Harwood in A flat, O Lord increase my faith (Gibbons); 6.30 E, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), The Treasurer.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Thalben Ball; 4 Choral E, Responses (Gray), Bairstow in E flat, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Blow), The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Elysian Singers, Stanford in B flat & F, Darke in F, Cast me not away (SS Wesley), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Elysian Singers, Responses (Stewart), Wood in D, Like as the hart (Howells).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon H Thomas; 3.30 Choral E, Walmisley in D minor, Canon D Hutton; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Euch, Rev J Redvers Harris; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Adam lay ybounden (Ord); 3.30 Choral E, Wesley in E, O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce); 6.30 E, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Looke downe, O Lord (Byrd), The Archdeacon; 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, Canon B Langley; 9.30, Canon P Strange, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Canon B Langley; 6 Responses (Paul Ritchie), Cruickshank in E flat, Transeunte Domino Jesu (Francisco de Penalosa).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mozart in C, Ave Verum corpus (Mozart), Canon J Davies; 11.30 M, Responses (Ayleward), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Jubilate in B flat, God omnipotent reigneth (Wood), V Rev H Dickinson; 3 E, Responses (Ayleward), Murrill in E, The Wilderness (Wesley).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, The Provost; 3 E, Fifth service (Tomkins), Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Rev Canon R Royle.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Steal away (Tippett), Ireland in C, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar); 6 E, Responses (Ebdon), Gray in F minor, Valiant for Truth (Vaughan Williams).

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Darke in F, O Saviour of the World (Palestrina), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Ave Maria Stella (Churchill); 3 E, Brewer in D, Faire is the heaven (Harris), Preb D Goodman.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Wood in E, Great Lord of Lords (Wood), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Missa Cum jubilo (Duruflé), Tout puissant/Seigneur je vous en prie (Poulenc), Canon D Gray; 3 E, Magnificate quarti toni (Palestrina), Allelula laus et gloria (Lassus), Rev C Bard; 6.30 ES, Rev P Ferguson.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 SM, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Cantate Domino (Monteverdi), Tantum ergo sacramentum/Prelude & Fugue sur le nom d'Alain (Duruflé); 3.30 V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Morales), Verba mea auribus percipe (Schutz).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Responses (Leighton), Coll Reg (Howells), Sing we merrily (Campbell); 11.30 Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen); 3.30 E, St Paul's service (Howells), The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), The Archdeacon.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass for five voices/Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), V Rev R Furnell; 11.30 M, Responses (Rose), Stanford in B flat, O Lorde the maker of al thing (Joubert); 2, St Leonard's Hospice service; 4 E, St Paul's Service (Howells), Antiphon (Britten), Rev Canon G Hunter.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis/Fantasia in F minor (Mozart), The Canon; 3 EP.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Fr A Barratt.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MP & HC, Gloria in Excelsis, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), The Minister; 11.30 Edinburgh University Service, Laetentur coeli (Byrd), Rev I Whyte; 8 ES, Rev Dr J Philip Newell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 10.15 M; 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), The Dean; 3.15 E, Stanford in G, They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion), Responses (Smith), Ven G Cassidy.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E&B, St Paul's Service (Howells), Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Rev P McGeary.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Rev J Cook; 6.30, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa brevis (Gabrieli), I will praise God (Purcell), Afferentur regi (Bruckner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Tomkins 5th Service, Jesus dulcis memoria (Victoria), Mr J Waterston; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal, Rev S Millar, 5, 7.30 Informal, Mr J Jennings.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Salve Regina (Victoria), Kyrie-Litanae (Mozart), 12.30, 4.30, 7 M; 3.30 V & B, O bone Jesu (Palestrina).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr R Tudor, 6.30, Rev D Banner.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M & HC, Short Service/ Exsurge Domine (Byrd), Canon D Burgess; 6.30 Choral Euch, Gibbons in F, If ye love me (Tallis), Rev A Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (John Gardner), Darke in F, O hearken thou (Elgar), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Mass in G (Goller), Intende voci orationis (Elgar), Andante in e minor (SS Wesley).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Darlow), Let my prayer come up (Purcell), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Ortona), If ye love me (Tallis), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Farrant in a minor, Come let's rejoice (Amner).

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Call to remembrance O Lord (Farrant), Rev D Watson; 6.30 Choral E, I was glad when they said unto me (Purcell), Rev G Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor (O Almighty God - Barcrofte), Rev J Yates.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Rev A Francis.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Raichford; 9.45 Euch, St Martin's Service (Stringer), The Lord hath been mindful (SS Wesley), O sacrum convivium (Morales), Rev J Moore; 11.30 Visitors, Responses (Lane), Like as the hart (Howells), Rev J Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E, Responses (Rose), Coll Reg (Howells), O Lorde the maker of al thing (Joubert); 6.30 ES, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, The Vicar; 6.30 Choral E, Mr N Pain.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Lennox Berkeley), Salve Regina (Byrd), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Taize Service.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass (Jongen), God be in my head (Walford Davies), Rev R McLaren.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Petri (Wilson), Justorum animae (Stanford), Geistliches Lied (Brahms), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Beati quorum via integra est (Stanford), Contrapunctus XI (Bach).

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa en style ancien (Langlais), Salve Regina (Poulenc), Tantum ergo (de Séverac), Fr N Cocking.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Morley), When David heard that Absolom was slain (Weelkes), Canon J G Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Laudate Dominum (Mozart), Canon R H Lewis.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11 M, Stanford in B flat, Haec dies (Byrd); 3.30 E, In pace (Blitheman), Moeran in D, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1, 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Huc ad Regem Pastorem (de Klerk), Ave verum Corpus (Fauré), Ut flos, ut rose (Crivelli), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Stanford in G, The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Be still my soul (Sibelius), Vaterunser (Schutz), The Chaplain; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Thou wilt keep him (Wesley), Ven M Bucks.

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Where can one be found like you, Lord? You are great, and great is the might of your name.
Jeremiah 10 : 6 (REB).

BIRTHS

ALLEN - On 14th February 1995, to Jane and Neil, a son, Samuel James, a brother for Rebecca.

ARNOLD - To Sarah and Simon, on February 12th, in Chicago, USA - Harriet Martha Rose, a sister for George.

BELL DAVIES - On 16th February in Edinburgh, to Richard and Prudence (née Rucker), a daughter, Camilla Sophie.

CONYBEARE-CROSS - On February 15th, to Camilla, wife of James Conybeare-Cross, a son, Hector James.

FREYTAG - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital Kristen and Tee welcome the birth of their son, Dylan Thomas Freytag, 10lbs 3oz, 21½ inches.

GRIFFITHS - On 15th February 1995, to Kristina and Neil, a son, Jacob Ceidrych Johnson.

JHAVERI - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Charleigh (née Smit) and Robert, a handsome son, Alexander Gustaf Byron.

MEREDITH - On February 15th, at Ysbyty Nevill Hall, Abergavenny, to Jacqueline (née Rowberry) and Andrew, a son, Rhys Tomos, a brother for James.

OGILVIE - See Ormond.

ORMOND - On February 13th, in Johannesburg, to Grania Marguerite, wife of Wyatt Ormond, a son.

PINNINGTON - On February 13th to Chris and Fiona, a boy, Benjamin William.

PRICE - Born 11th February, at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, to Richard and Alyson (née Cogan), of Penhow, Gwent, a son Morgan.

ROBERTS - On February 15th, to Tiffany (née Charlton-Jones) and David, a daughter, Isabel Christina.

ROMANOV - Michael at The Portland Hospital on February 12th 1995 to Ismailov Magomed and Romanova Nadja, a handsome son, a grandson for Ushah.

ROWSON - On 14th February 1995, to Meriel (née Skepper) and Neil, a daughter, Georgina Cecilia, a sister for Laura.

STONE - On 6th February in Oxford, to Judith (née Neale) and Richard, a daughter, Caroline Eleanor.

SWANSON - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital, To Hallie (née Campbell) and David, a darling son, David Alexander Campbell, brother to Hallie-Nell.

TORODE - On February 17th, to Jayne and Nigel, a son, Travis.

MARRIAGES

DEVONPORT:GRAHAM - Brian and Carol wish to announce that their marriage took place at Koh Samui, Thailand, on Friday 17th February 1995.

SELLAR:BUTCHER - Colin Alexander to Stephanie Dawn, 12 noon 16th February 1995 at Gretna Green Registry Office, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

THE TIMES
NOTICE TO READERS
Our new telephone number for Birth, Marriage and Death announcements is
0171 782 7272 or fax 0171 782 7827

DEATHS

COLE - On 16th February 1995, peacefully in St Wilfrids Hospice, Chichester, Captain James (Jim), beloved husband of Eileen and darling father of Wendy, Deborah and Keith. Funeral Service at Donnington Parish Church on Friday 24th February at 12.15 pm. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to St Wilfrids Hospice.

GILL - George, on Thursday 16th February 1995 at Roding Hospital, Essex, aged 71 years, after a short illness which brought a peaceful end to much suffering. He follows his dearly loved wife Nikki to the grave nine days after her death. He will be greatly missed by his son Anton and all his family and friends. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Cancer Research. A Requiem Mass for George and Nikki will be held at St Augustine's Church, Barkingside, Essex, at 10 am on 24th February.

HUNLOKE - On February 14th peacefully in her sleep at Swallowfield Park, Virginia (née Clive). Much loved mother of Sarah and grandmother of Marta, Inéz and Sofia. Funeral Monday February 27th at 2.30 pm at All Saints, Swallowfield, near Reading. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, The Home Farm Trust, a charity for the mentally handicapped, at the church.

LASCELLES - Esmee Marion, widow of the late Sir Francis Lascelles, K.C.B., M.C., greatly loved mother of Brian and Giles, grandmother and great-grandmother, peacefully at Pendean, Midhurst, on Wednesday 15th February. Service at Woolbeding Church, Thursday 23rd February at 3 pm.

MATTHEWS - Elizabeth (Hannah) PMRAFNS (retd.) of Greenwich, Conn. On 10th February, peacefully in Colindale Hospital, following a stroke in November. Funeral on Thursday 2nd March 2 pm at St Mary's Church, Hendon. Enquiries (and donations if desired to RAF Association) c/o. Leverton & Sons Ltd., 39 Brent Street, Hendon NW4 2ED. tel: (081) 202-8008.

NICHOLSON - Early on Friday 17th February, peacefully in hospital, Mary Nicholson (née Crawford) aged 87. The Service will be at Putney Vale Crematorium at 11.30 am on Friday 24th February. Flowers please to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, London SW10.

PANNELL - Jack, on Thursday 16th February, husband of the late Betsy Pannell, passed away contentedly with a drink in his hand, father of the late late Alastair, David and Margaret, and grandfather of Ross, Victoria, Anna, Sophie, Tom and Elliott. Funeral arrangements to be announced. Rest in peace in loving memory.

PATERSON - On February 8th, Robert Lancelot O.B.E., M.C., The Border Regiment 1937-1946, Colonial Administrative Service Tanganyika, and latterly Director of The Merseyside Chamber of Commerce. The beloved husband of Orpha and loved and devoted father of Anthony, Jonathan and Michael and their families. Lacrimae Rerum.

PERRY - On February 16th at Midfield Lodge Nursing Home, (Arthur) John. Funeral at 12 noon on Thursday February 23rd at Cambridge City Crematorium. Playwright, Theatrical Agent and former Director of HM Tennant Limited. Flowers may be sent to Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

SAFRIN de - Ignatius Horatio (Steve) on Thursday 16th February after a short illness aged 85. Sadly missed by his loving wife Jocelyn, children Janina and Ashley, family and friends. Cremation Service Monday 20th February at Rawdon Crematorium, nr. Leeds. 10.30 am.

SCHOFIELD - On February 16th 1995, peacefully at Preston House, Preston, near Cirencester, Geoffrey Alwyn Joseph aged 94 years, Cmdr. R.N. (retd.), loving father and grandfather. Rest in Peace. Requiem Mass at St Peter's, Cirencester, 1 pm Friday 24th February. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to King George's Fund for Sailors, 8 Hatherley Street, London SW1T 2YY.

SIMOND - On February 12th, peacefully at Andover Memorial Hospital, John Derick Piers, aged 74. Beloved husband of Pauline and father of Katherine and Miranda. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford, at 11.30am on Monday 20th February. Family flowers or donations for Andover Memorial Hospital may be sent to Dunning Funeral Directors, 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP.

SOAMES - On February 16th 1995, peacefully at home in his 92nd year, Martin Roland, beloved father of Richard and Elfin and grandfather of Julian, Rebecca, Roxana and Alexander. Funeral Service at Hinton Ampner Church, Hinton Ampner, near Bramdean, Hampshire, on Tuesday February 21st at 3.30 pm.

THORP - On February 13th, suddenly and peacefully in America, Peter Dixon M.A. LL.B., Solicitor of Ossett, aged 70 years, of Minskip, North Yorkshire. Very dearly loved husband of Doreen, dear father of Jeremy and Amanda, stepfather of Linda, a much loved grandpa and brother of Nancy. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

WADE - Dr. Alan Francis at Pakenham, Australia, ex Muswell Hill, on 12th February, aged 64, following Alzheimer's disease. Husband of Dione, father of Aidan, Heidi, Marcus and Jessica. Adored granded.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BROWN - A Memorial Service for Sheila will be held at All Saints Church, Great Addington, at 12 noon on Friday 24th February.

PASCOE - A Memorial Service for Mr K.J. Pascoe, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, Steward 1980-1982 and 1986-1987, and University Lecturer in Engineering 1953-1984, will be held in St John's College Chapel on Saturday 4th March at 12 noon.

THORNBURN - A Memorial Service for Major Urwin Thornburn M.C., T.D., M.A., former Headmaster of Colfox School, will be held at St Mary's Church, Bridport, Dorset on Saturday February 25th at 2.30 pm. Refreshments afterwards at Church House, Bridport.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ALLER - Winifred - In ever loving memory of my darling Sister (Bunny) who died on February 18th 1986. Dorothy.

JORDAN LAWRENCE - (Bill), 19th February 1991, in Italy. Et in Arcadia ego. With my love as always. Mary.

MERRIMAN - Richard, February 19th, 1985. Happiest memories treasured yet. Maureen.

RODER - Frederick James. In loving memory of my brother who passed away in Vancouver, Canada, February 18th 1994. Much loved and sorely missed. Doreen and family.

WELLER - Diana died 18th February 1985. Always in our thoughts. Michael, Caron, Lisa and Michelle.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

STONES - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Angela Stones, Artist, will be held at Christ Church, Chelsea, 27th February 1pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU A Regular Traveller? Are you enthusiastic about the cinema? Then we need you... If you have any spare airmiles that you have decided to donate or not to use, they will be useful to us to go to New York to shoot our next film. If you do not possess any Airmiles, well maybe you would like to invest a few pounds to support us! All investors however small are welcomed! If you want to help a group of desperate but talented young film-makers, please contact Ben or Nikki at the Royal College of Art (071) 584 5020 - Ext 356/300.

I trust everybody has had a magical evening, a special thanks to Peter Byrne for choosing the eight of clubs. Regards Howard.

I trust everybody has had a magical evening, a special thanks to Peter Byrne for choosing the eight of clubs. Regards Howard.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE BRISTOL COUNTY COURT
IN BANKRUPTCY
No. 601 of 1994

RE: RAYMOND GEORGE ALFRED BINGE, unemployed, residing at The Stables, Old Coach Road, Cross, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2EH and DAVID VICTOR NORTHAM, unemployed, residing at 14 Ridge Hill, Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 9PE lately carrying on business in partnership under the style of Northam Binge and Partners from 4 Dowry Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4SH as insurance brokers and financial advisers.

I, Alan Redvers Price, of Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ, hereby give notice that I have been appointed as trustee of the above-named bankrupts against whom bankruptcy orders were made on 22 November 1994. All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the bankrupts must deliver them to me, and all debts due to the bankrupts must be paid to me.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their proofs of debt to me by 28 March 1995, failing which they may be excluded from any subsequent dividend declared.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LONG & HAMBLY PLASTICS LIMITED
(IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the liquidator's intention to pay a final dividend in this case. The Creditors of the above named company are therefore required on or before the 31st day of March 1995 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to William Morys Roberts the liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said liquidator, by their solicitors or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. The dividend will be declared within four months of the proving.

Dated: 14 day of February 1995
W M Roberts
Liquidator
Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DENNING, EVA DOROTHY of 63 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, LONDON SW19 died on 20TH OCTOBER 1994 particulars to H.C.L. HANNE & CO Solicitors of 281 LAVENDER HILL, LONDON SW11 5TH before 19TH APRIL 1995.

HENRY FRANCIS ARTHUR CULLIFORD of 24 Adair Towers, Appleford Road, Kensington, London, W10 died 1st October 1994. Particulars to Keith Hall Juvier & Co, 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx. UB6 9AG before 21st April 1995.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRUSTEE ACTS

NEWPORT, MARGARET PATTLE of 19 MITCHLEY HILL, SANDERSTEAD, SURREY CR2 9HF died on 22ND OCTOBER 1994 particulars to BURTON YEATES WESTBURYS Solicitors of 38 ST MARTINS LANE, LONDON WC2N 4ER (Attn: Mrs EMILY MACASKIE) before 19th APRIL 1995.

SILK, Reginald Thomas of Flat 12, Southcote Manor, 186 Hatford Road, Reading, Berkshire died on 1st February 1995. Particulars to Serjeant & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 22nd April 1995.

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THE GUARDIANS OF THE TREATY AND ACT OF UNION 1706/7

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, on 11 November last, the Hon. Mr. Justice Lightman handed down a judgment which fundamentally changes the status of the Church of England in English law.

In Williamson v. Archbishop of Canterbury et al. (CH 1994 W 697) the learned judge states unequivocally that:

'an established religion is subject to state control as regards doctrine, government and discipline.'

'The doctrine of the supremacy of Parliament means that Parliament on its own may legislate for the Church.'

'the sovereignty of Parliament allows of no exception in respect of Church doctrine.'

'...under English law, so far as the combined effect of the Enabling Act and the Ordination Measure contravenes the Act of Union, the Enabling Act and Measure prevail.'

We believe that this Judgment cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. Notice of Appeal has been served. It is imperative that the Appeal is conducted by a competent constitutional barrister even though this will be expensive.

In pursuance of this Appeal, backed by the Guardians of the Treaty and Act of Union, 1706/7, an independent charitable Trust is willing to receive donations, manage their use and issue audited accounts. Donations, no matter how small, may be sent to:

The North Essex Charity, 96, High Street,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1EF.

Cheques should be made payable to the North Essex Charity and marked on the reverse 'Appeal Fund'.

This advertisement has been paid for by the the Guardians of the Treaty and Act of Union 1706/7.

OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL ROBERT CURRIE

Rear-Admiral Robert Currie, CB, DSC and Bar, wartime convoy escort commander, died on February 7 aged 89. He was born on April 29, 1905.

THE apogee of Robert Currie's long and eventful career as a naval officer in peace and war was probably his command of Escort Group B6 during the Battle of the Atlantic. Although it was hardly apparent at the time, the month of May 1943 was the turning point of this campaign against the U-boat.

After he joined the crack destroyer *Fame* in April 1943, Currie's first major battle was in October, defending for eight days the 65-ship Liverpool to North America convoy ON206 against a numerous wolf-pack. His close escort of four ships was supported by the five in Escort Group B7, a force commanded by the renowned Commander Peter Gretton, whose celebrated defence of convoy HX231 in April had marked "the beginning of the end". Four U-boats were sunk for the loss of one merchant ship.

The passage of subsequent convoys escorted by Currie's group demonstrated the Allies' increasing tactical and technological mastery — air cover from shore and from escort carriers, better intelligence leading to evasive routing, centimetric radar, better weapons and more efficient communications. In early November, for example, Admiral Dönitz mustered a pack of U-boats against convoy SC145 which, supported by the escort carrier *Fencer*, was neatly sidestepped by Currie and the convoy made port, illustrating the point that "safe and timely arrival" is a victory.

Currie later commanded the 14th Escort Group, part of the massive array of forces protecting the D-Day landings. On June 18, 1944, *Fame*, with the destroyers *Inconstant* and *Havelock*, ran down an enemy radio transmission bearing and found U767 near the Brittany coast. The sinking earned Currie his first DSC and avenged the previous torpedoing of the frigate *Mourne* by this U-boat.

Currie's second DSC was awarded while in command of the destroyer *Hesperus* for the sinking of a U-boat in the Irish Sea in April 1945 and for another probable sinking in May. After VE-Day Currie returned members of the Norwegian Government to their country and was awarded the King Haakon VII Liberty Cross.

Robert Alexander Currie joined the Navy in 1919 and was trained at Osborne and Dartmouth. His first ship was the battleship *Revenge*. In 1927 he was posted to China and the gunboat *Bee* which, although it was a craft of only 700 tons, had to carry the Rear-Admiral and Senior Naval Officer, Yangtse River, with his staff. After a tour in the battlecruiser *Repulse*, in 1931 Currie was selected for the Long Gunnery Course from which he emerged in first place. He was, therefore, a natural for the intellectually demanding advanced — or "dagger" — gunnery course in 1932.

Specialist gunner appointments in the County class cruisers *Dorsetshire* and then the *Berwick*, which took him back to the China station, were followed by a tour on the instructional staff of the *HMS Excellent* gunnery school. By now a lieutenant-commander and a qualified German interpreter, Currie was selected in June 1939 for early promotion to commander and a post as the staff gunnery officer and, more importantly, operations officer of the Battlecruiser Squadron under Rear-Admiral W. J. Whitworth.

While with the battlecruiser *Renown* Currie took part in an indecisive brush with the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* on April 9, the date of the German invasion of Norway. Admiral Whitworth then shifted his flag to the battleship *Warspite* and sailed up the narrow Ofot Fiord towards Narvik which resulted in the sinking of eight modern German destroyers. These losses to the German navy permanently affected the maritime balance of power in the region; Currie was awarded the first of his two mentions in dispatches for his role as operations officer.

By June 1941 Currie was working in the Plans Division at the Admiralty where he was fortunate enough to take part in two historic processes. The first was the British delegation that, two weeks after Pearl Harbor, accompanied Churchill to Washington in the battleship *Duke of York* for the Arcadia conference which, against a background of major naval disasters in two hemispheres, ratified the "Germany first" decision whose fundamental significance is difficult to exaggerate. In January 1941 Currie participated in the Symbol conference at Casablanca, where he was part of the highly efficient organisation led by Lieutenant-General Ian Jacob which, as nearly as was possible, reproduced a Whitehall level of support for the British Chiefs of Staff which strongly affected the conference's outcome.

After the end of the war in Europe, Currie commanded an assault group in Operation Zipper, the landings to recover Port Swettenham and Port Dickson in Malaya that were staged a month after the Japanese surrender.

Promoted captain in September 1945, Currie returned to the Admiralty as Director of the Gunnery Division and he commanded the 5th destroyer flotilla from the *Solebay*. He was subsequently the Director of the Naval Staff College before taking up his final command, the gunnery and missile trials cruiser, *Cumberland*.

Promoted rear-admiral in 1954, he was appointed chief of staff to the Chairman, British Joint Services Mission in Washington until his retirement tin 1957, being then made a CB.

He was a member of the Committee of Inquiry into the Fishing Industry, 1958-60, and a councillor for West Suffolk for eight years. He was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk in 1968.

He married in 1944 Lady (Edith) Beevor, widow of Sir Thomas Beevor, 6th Bt. She died in 1985. There were no children of the marriage.

DWYE EVANS

Alwyn Dwye Evans, publisher, died on January 21 aged 88. He was born in Leytonstone, London, on December 6, 1906.

Dwye Evans with J. B. Priestley

AT the time of his retirement in 1973 Dwye Evans had been a notable figure in London book publishing for forty years. The eldest son of a Welsh schoolmaster turned publisher, Evans was educated at the City of London School before being introduced into his father's firm, William Heinemann, where he gained all-round experience in different departments of the business. He also spent several months at the Garden City Press in New York State, learning the procedures of Doubleday & Company, at that time the benign owners of Heinemann.

Several of Evans's American friendships, as well as his lasting esteem for American values and way of life, stemmed from this youthful experience. He was promoted to the Heinemann board in 1933 while still only 26 and shortly after served in addition as a director of the Reprint Society (later World Books), then a powerful league formed by five leading publishers in response to the inroads being made at the low-price end of the market by the new paperbacks.

Evans joined the RAF in 1940 as a pilot officer. Despite having gained his pilot's licence in 1927, the need to wear glasses kept him grounded. He volunteered for bomb disposal work on RAF airfields and was based, among other postings, at Nuffield, the HQ for No 11 Squadron. He ended the war with the rank of squadron leader.

In 1945, still in uniform, Evans escorted to Vienna the distinguished refugee publisher Paul Zsolnay, whose firm had been expropriated on the direct orders of Goebbels, and was helpful in setting the wheels of restitution in motion. This befriending of Zsolnay resulted in a very fruitful European partnership at a time when mainstream British publishing risked withdrawal into a cosy parochialism.

After the war Evans was quick to recognise the increasing importance of better forward planning of a publisher's list in order to concentrate on promoting major books and authors and to enhance the value of subsidiary rights (serialisation, paperback and book club reprints, translation and others). He worked closely for many years with such authors as Olivia Manning, Enid Bagnold, J. B. Priestley, Somerset Maugham, Frank Yerby, Elleston Trevor, Morris West, Max Catto and Beverley Nichols.

With Nevil Shute he enjoyed a particularly close friendship; when Shute died suddenly in 1960 Evans spoke a brief appreciation of him on national television and later, acting on a request in the novelist's will, scattered his ashes onto the waters of the Solent.

Near the end of Evans's publishing career his special pleasure at being involved with one of the first TV tie-ins, the 26-part weekly BBC series based on *The Forsyte Saga*, was owed to the fact that it had been his father who, fifty years earlier, had suggested to John Galsworthy the imaginative idea of grouping under this collective title his recent novels *In Chancery* and *To Let* with the much earlier *The Man of Property*.

Having been chairman of William Heinemann and group managing director since 1962, Evans also joined the board of Pan Books in 1969. On his retirement in 1973 he quickly severed most of his links with publishing and, as if to mark the end of that phase of his life, he also resigned from the Garrick Club and devoted himself to his family and private interests. Spending an increasing amount of time at their converted farmhouse in Provence, Evans and his wife Daphne delighted in visits from their two sons and three daughters and their families.

His wife and children survive him.

KEN HILL

Ken Hill, playwright and theatre director, died from cancer on January 23 aged 57. He was born on January 28, 1937.

KEN HILL was a protégé of Joan Littlewood at Theatre Workshop. He was happiest directing chaotic musicals on the tiny stage of the old Theatre Royal, Stratford East — Theatre Workshop's home in London for many years — but he also had hits in the West End and abroad, among them *The Invisible Man* and the original stage version of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

His stock-in-trade was musical adventure stories. Like Littlewood, his aim was to make things look fresh and improvised, to which end he might spend hours working on one tiny scene with his cast. He set his lyrics to out-of-copyright popular tunes, so that the audience felt familiar with his songs without ever quite being able to place them, and, more importantly, so that music could be adapted without paying royalties — the budgets at Theatre Workshop being famously small. He had an encyclopaedic musical knowledge. For instance, in his current show, *Zorro — The Musical!*, his lyrics were accompanied by melodies from 19th-century Spanish operetta.

He was born in Birmingham, and educated at King Edward's School, after which he joined an amateur theatrical company, Crescent Theatre, sweeping the floor, making props, writing and directing. His first play, *Night Season*, was put on at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, in 1963. For a time he worked as an investigative journalist for ATV and it was there that he caused a minor uproar with his report on corruption in Birmingham's local government.

In 1970 Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop returned to its old home, the dilapidated Theatre Royal, Stratford East. A satire on local authorities was discussed as a good subject for a new production, and Hill's name was put forward as a possible writer. The result of the collaboration — Hill's *Forward Up Your End* (1970) — was condemned by some of the press for its juvenile humour but Littlewood liked it and Hill stayed on.

He was roped in as an actor in numerous productions but writing, not acting, remained his first love. He was made associate director and resident writer at Theatre Workshop from 1970 to 1974 and from 1974 to 1976 he took over as artistic director, Littlewood by this time having left for projects in Tunisia.

Hill's productions included *Is Your Doctor Really Necessary?* (1973), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1974), *Gentlemen Prefer Anything* (1974) and *Dracula* (1974). He cut a conspicuous front-of-house figure, joking with customers at the bar, and patrolling the stage with little solo dances until the audience was settled. In rehearsal he would leap about the stage to demonstrate ideas to his actors, a sight made even more alarming by his height and shock of red hair. He could be stinting with praise for his actors and had little small talk; but he always got the best out of his cast.

He left Theatre Workshop in 1976 and worked for some years at Newcastle Playhouse. He returned in 1984 with his version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, the first musical adaption of the story. Andrew Lloyd Webber saw and liked it, and for a while there was talk about his bringing it into the West End. Nothing came of this, however, and Lloyd Webber's own version duly opened in the West End in 1986. Hill's *Phantom* transferred in 1991 but, despite excellent notices, did badly at the box office and was forced to close. It enjoyed a warmer reception abroad, particularly in America.

The Invisible Man fared better in the West End, transferring from Stratford East to the old Vaudeville Theatre in 1993. This show was a particular favourite of Hill's, combining his love of stage trickery and childish optical jokes in scenes in which, for instance, the unbandaged "invisible" head of the Invisible Man smokes a cigar. Hill made everyone working in the theatre, from the cleaning staff upwards, sign a document forbidding them to reveal how this was done to the press.

Despite having cancer intermittently for the past 12 years, Hill continued to deluge Stratford East with ideas for new productions.

He is survived by his wife, the actress Toni Palmer, and two sons from a previous marriage.

RODERICK STEPHENS

Roderick Stephens, yacht designer, died in New York on January 10 aged 85. He was born in 1909.

RODERICK STEPHENS was one of America's best known yachtsmen and designers and had a major influence on the sport worldwide for more than four decades. He and his brother Olin, partners in the New York design firm of Sparkman & Stephens, were responsible for many top racing yacht designs including the four *Morning Clouds* built for Edward Heath. The first *Morning Cloud*, a 34ft production yacht won the Sydney-Hobart classic in 1969 and her wooden replacement led Britain's three-boat team to victory in the 1971 Admiral's Cup.

The brothers dominated the America's Cup scene for many years, beginning with Harold S. Vanderbilt's successful J Class defender *Ranger* which defeated Sir Thomas Sopwith's British challenger *Endeavour II* in 1937; *Columbia* which beat the British 12-metre *Sceptre* in 1958; and *Constellation* which defended against *Sovereign* in 1964 — a remarkable run that continued until *Courageous* (the only boat to win the America's Cup twice, once in 1974 when skippered by Ted Hood and again in 1977 when Ted Turner was at the helm).

While Olin Stephens is acknowledged as the genius draftsman, it was Roderick Stephens's practical sailing knowledge and skills as an engineer and innovator that turned the drawings into winning designs.

During the Second World War these practical skills were put to good use on behalf of the Allied war effort. Rod, as he was universally known, played a leading role in the design of the DUKW amphibious vehicle, for which he was later awarded the United States Medal of Freedom.

Stephens began his yachting career in 1928 when he left Cornell University and spent two years working at the Henry Nevins Boat Yard on New York's City Island before joining his brother in the design firm Sparkman & Stephens.

Their first success was *Dorade*, a 52ft yawl they designed and built in 1931. They went on to win that year's Transatlantic race both on elapsed time and handicap, despite being the third smallest yacht in the fleet, as well as the famous Fastnet race and the boat changed the course of yacht design on both sides of the Atlantic.

He is survived by his brother and sister.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ON THIS DAY

February 18 1958

Lord Northcliffe introduced the Court Page article when he became owner of The Times *in 1908. It was an essay, generally of a light-hearted nature, often charming and usually the work of amateurs. With the Fourth Leader it was discarded shortly after news displaced advertisements on the front page in 1966.*

PORTRAIT OF A SCHOOLMASTER

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

I first came across Mr. George Cole when the grandson of one of his pupils sent me a coloured wax effigy, carefully framed, that had been in the family for over 100 years. It dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century, but Mr. Cole, in an old-fashioned wig, looks very like Dr. Johnson. His expression is severe but full of character, and I was moved to find out more about him.

He was, I discovered, the "English master" at Kimbolton School, and master in charge of the boarding house. Under his watchful eye his pupils wrote in the most beautiful copperplate handwriting, and in a style that they cannot have found natural. Behind his back, however, they remained boys still, and revealing comments found their way into notebooks: one can only hope that this, for instance, escaped Mr. Cole's knowledge:——

Now Old King Cole
  Was a wise old Soul
And a merry old Soul was he
  He kept a school with a strict rule
And old-time dignity.
  To break a rule of this strict school
He'd bowl you middle stump;
  Across a stool went many a fool
For King Cole's rule could crump.

King Cole's rule did crump. On one occasion an indignant parent sent a groom riding 15 miles to inquire why his son had been severely thrashed. Mr. Cole returned so adequate an answer that the groom came back to school next day with instructions that the boy was to be beaten again for sending unnecessary complaints.

Nevertheless, he won considerable affection and respect for some at least of his pupils. Boys like to be taught by men who are "characters," men whose personalities may be prickly but who are at least unforgettable. Mr. Cole's old boys remembered him warmly, and went back to see him and to drink with him perhaps too many glasses of wine . . .

He was not always in severe mood. He was always ready to give a holiday when some favoured pupil would waylay him on his return from the dinner table, and urge the brightness of the day or the good conduct of the boys as an excuse for the indulgence. He was thoroughly patriotic in his feelings, and, at the period we speak of, the continued successes of our arms in the Peninsular war gave frequent occasion for him to announce the joyful intelligence . . .

Despite the affection he inspired, Mr. Cole had his troubles. Partly because of the severity of his methods, numbers began to fall, but he refused to soften his rule to please the parents. He cannot be accused of placing his own interests above what he thought were those of the boys, for he received no salary and had to subsist on the profits he made out of the boarders.

As the boarding fee was only £5 15s. 6d. per quarter, his profits were never large, and the falling numbers hit him severely. After thirty years of service he was applying——in his best handwriting——to be granted a salary, but the Trustees did not respond. Eventually, when the number of boarders had fallen from over 70 to five, he was compelled to retire . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

British Gas admits double-charging

■ British Gas has admitted double-charging hundreds of customers who have switched to paying bills by direct debit to qualify for discounts. It is blaming the high street banks for having failed to read instructions.

The company is checking more than a million customer records, with help from the banks, to discover the extent of its double-charging..........Pages 1, 33

QC calls for murder law changes

■ Sweeping changes to the law on murder in the wake of Private Lee Clegg's conviction for killing a Belfast joyrider were recommended yesterday by a government-appointed QC in his review of anti-terrorist laws..........Page 1

Ministry break-in

Thieves broke into the office of Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary..........Page 1

Lamont EU warning

Britain will end up like a small American state unless it abandons the escalator sweeping it towards a federal Europe, Norman Lamont said..........Page 1

Troops to Angola

More than 500 British soldiers are to leave for Angola next month to help to set up a new peacekeeping operation..........Page 1

Hunt for hooligans

Detectives will raid the homes of people named on a hotline as those who wrecked the England and Ireland match..........Page 3

£15m inheritance

The High Court has cleared the way for the granddaughters of Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, to inherit her family fortune of £15 million..........Page 3

Sark's EU protest

The population on the self-governing Channel Island of Sark are rebelling against a mountain of EU paperwork..........Page 5

Creams withdrawn

Shops removed two face creams from their shelves yesterday after complaints that they had caused eye irritations..........Page 6

Mandela fears

President Mandela has warned radicals not to press the South African Government for resources it does not have..........Page 14

Berchtesgaden row

Berchtesgaden, Adolf Hitler's Alpine holiday home, is the subject of a battle between the US Army, the Bavarian Government and former owners..........Page 10

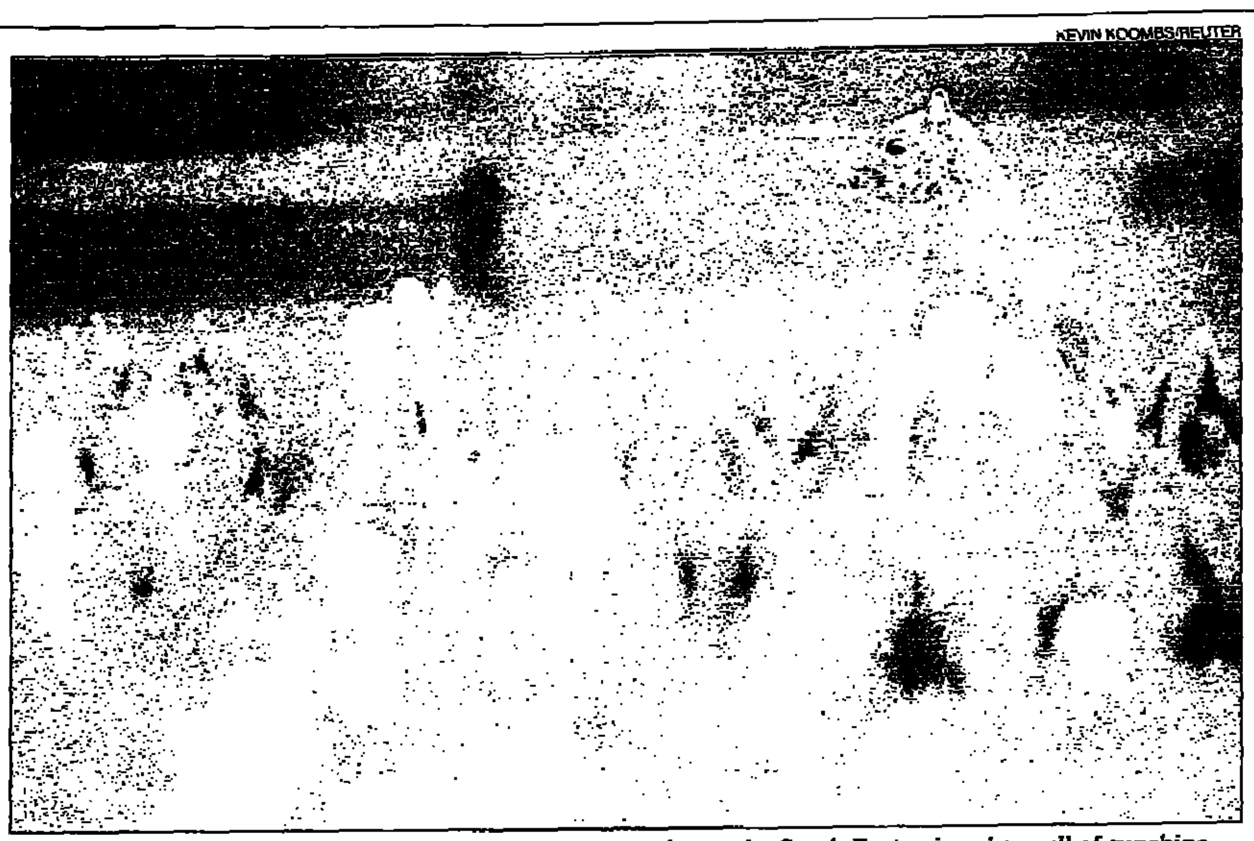
UN funding anger

Britain has provoked the wrath of the United States in the debate over UN funding..........Page 14

Fighting talk in Shepton Mallet

■ Shepton Mallet in Somerset is preparing for boxing glory tonight when it hosts the fight between Frank Bruno and Rodolfo Marin. Shepton Mallet may have heard of Frank, but until the fight was arranged Bruno had never heard of it..........Page 6

KEVIN COOMBS/REUTER



Early signs of spring in St James's Park, London, yesterday as the South East enjoyed a spell of sunshine after a night of storms which caused flooding and transport chaos in many parts of the country. Page 5

OPINION

Political Union: Kenneth Clarke stands rebuked: it remains to be seen how long he will keep the peace... Page 21

The pound in your pocket: People in Britain worry too much about turmoil on the foreign exchanges.... Page 21

The conquering Sarkeese: The island spirit lives on in Sark. What was good enough for William the Conqueror is still good enough for Sark..........Page 21

LETTERS

Chief of the Air Staff writes on bombing as a tactic of warfare: memorials to the rival discoverers of the Nile source: reactions to Archbishops call for tax concessions for married couples. Page 21

COLUMNS

Norman Lamont: It is strange that those who say that the nation state is out of date are those who are keenest to assume the trappings of a nation state for Europe Page 20

Simon Jenkins: The message I take from Lansdowne Road is, get the hooligans to pay for the damage and forget it..........Page 20

THE PAPERS

In 1995 the attempt to halt Serb agression stands approximately where the attempt to halt German aggression stood in 1942

— *Los Angeles Times*

New York's return to capital punishment has seemed inevitable since the election of George Pataki as Governor

— *The New York Times*

BUSINESS

Power bid: In an a attempt to avoid a £1.2 billion hostile takeover by Trafalgar House, Northern Electric has offered a package of incentives worth more than £5 a share to shareholders..........Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 6.9 points to close at 3044.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 87.1 after a fall from $1.5767 to $1.5765 and from DM2.3498 to DM2.3466..........Page 28

OBITUARIES

Rear-Admiral Robert Currie, wartime convoy escort commander; **Dwye Evans**, publisher; **Ken Hill**, playwright and theatre director; **Roderick Stephens**, yacht designer..........Page 23

SPORT

Rugby union: Wales will revel in their position as underdogs to England, who are firm favourites to win in Cardiff for only the second time since 1963..........Page 48

Football: Leeds United face Manchester United in the fifth round of the FA Cup, the furthest they have progressed since Howard Wilkinson became manager..........Page 48

Tennis: Steffi Graf, the winner of 15 grand slam championships, may be forced into premature retirement by the back injury she suffered last year..........Page 48

Boxing: Frank Bruno should regain his status, at least with the British public, when he meets Rodolfo Marin at Shepton Mallet..........Page 45

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Star quality: Jennifer Jason Leigh, the actress who loves acting more than money or fame..........Page 8

Saved for the nation: Marcus Binney on Brodsworth and the controversy over how historic houses should be preserved..........Page 14

The new Bucharest: Jan Morris finds that Romanians have not yet escaped the clutches of their Communist past..........Page 19

Latin Lover: Anne McElvoy meets Father Reginaldus, Latin Secretary to the Pope, who is on a one-man crusade for the language..........Page 22

Fashion: Armani extends his empire..........Page 22

The Times Cook: Frances Bissell on fish..........Page 35

WEEKEND

Spend, spend, spend: Nigel Hawkes discovers why shopping has become Britain's most popular leisure activity..........Pages 1 and 3

Arts: Benedict Nightingale on Simon Gray's new play in which Stephen Fry plays George Blake..........Page 5

School's out: Half-term entertainment......Pages 2, 19

Star quality: The house where *The Buccaneers* was filmed..........Page 13

Digging in: Why Britons love their allotments. Plus Spring bulbs for your garden..........Pages 10 and 11

Travel: A cricketing tour of India; painter's Provence; and the riches of Munich..........Pages 16-18

VISION

Reel women: Women on film-making..........Page 3

Real holidays: Horrors, hysterics and *The Real Holiday Show*..........Page 5

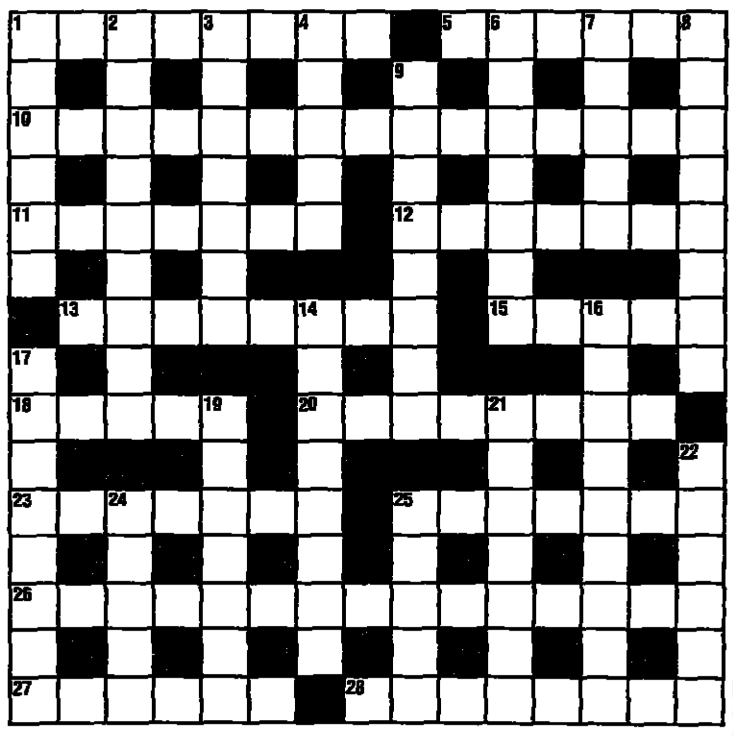
Spy life: *Panorama* on Aldrich Ames, *The Million Dollar Spy*..........Page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,782

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



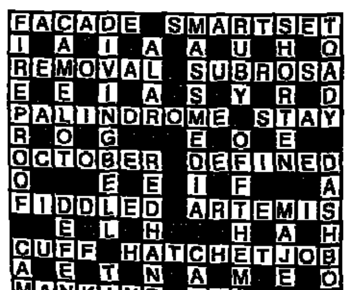
ACROSS

1 Some foolish joke, hard to see at first but simple (8).
5 He's no longer in stable employment (6).
10 Composer who worked closely with his peers, we hear (8,7).
11 One hiding away before having a child (7).
12 Curtain off enclave (7).
13 It's restorative to take a light vehicle round Maine (4-2-2).
15 Have a bit of sense (5).
18 Turn back on meeting furious tribesman maybe (5).
20 As student, is in group making revolution (8).
23 Such a one is damaged — unfortunate flaw within (7).
25 Pensioners' bridge team (7).
26 Top musicians have no resistance in the cold (15).
27 Continent line introduced by Evangelical Union (6).
28 Relishes working without children (8).

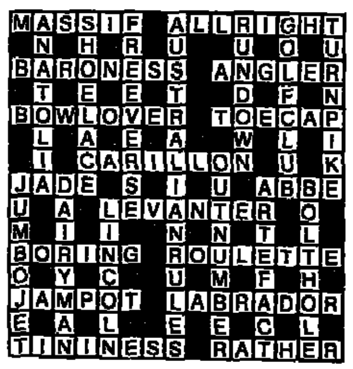
DOWN

1 Man touched drink with tongue (6).
2 Quirk of Italian post-Renaissance style (9).
3 Unwell, put on to water (7).
4 Tie with one hand (5).
6 Determined to get result of hunt in the pot (7).
7 Pretend it's the fashion in Paris (3,2).
8 Erred badly about Bottom being translated (8).
9 Feeling better than expected about less than perfect course result? (5,3).
14 A balancing act — horsemanship does without it (8).
16 Rock single stands out at the top (9).
17 Fast, but such neat work (8).
19 Heaven-sent nasal drip (7).
21 Sister put coins in jacket (7).
22 Roman conspirator, non-U but cordial (6).
24 Coming up, he may cause people to flee (5).
25 Borrow an assortment of keys (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,776



Solution to Puzzle No 19,781



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *R G Cattell, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield; D G Felton, Upper Shirley, Southampton; P J Cooper, Barton, Preston; J H Wilks, Weydale Avenue, Scarborough; A M Thompson, Harpenden Road, St Albans.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.10 am	Sun sets: 5.20 pm
Moon sets 7.59 am	Moon rises 9.25 pm

Last quarter February 22

London 5.20 pm to 7.08 am
Bristol 5.30 pm to 7.17 am
Edinburgh 5.22 pm to 7.30 am
Manchester 5.24 pm to 7.20 am
Penzance 5.45 pm to 7.27 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.06 am	Sun sets: 5.22 pm
Moon sets 8.26 am	Moon rises 10.41 pm

Last quarter February 22

London 5.22 pm to 7.06 am
Bristol 5.32 pm to 7.15 am
Edinburgh 5.25 pm to 7.28 am
Manchester 5.26 pm to 7.18 am
Penzance 5.46 pm to 7.25 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.28	7.11	3.56	7.17
Aberdeen	3.01	4.28	3.10	4.46
Avonmouth	8.55	13.63	9.17	13.47
Belfast	0.23	3.27	0.42	3.62
Cardiff	8.41	12.17	9.03	11.90
Devonport	7.38	5.47	7.59	5.28
Dover	0.27	6.76	0.41	6.63
Dublin	0.56	3.98	1.18	4.21
Falmouth	6.36	5.32	6.53	5.11
Glasgow	2.38	4.45	2.46	4.88
Harwich	1.21	4.01	1.44	3.98
Holyhead	11.59	5.69	-	-
Hull	7.56	7.53	8.10	7.85
Ilfracombe	7.42	9.48	8.02	9.38
King's Lynn	7.52	6.88	8.10	7.16
Leith	4.16	5.53	4.32	5.62
Liverpool	0.44	9.50	0.59	9.67
Lowestoft	11.20	2.34	11.23	2.63
Margate	1.24	4.81	1.49	4.66
Milford Haven	7.51	7.08	8.12	6.91
Newquay	6.40	7.10	7.00	6.93
Oban	7.15	4.04	7.34	3.87
Penzance	6.19	5.67	6.39	5.47
Portland	8.23	2.15	8.56	1.97
Portsmouth	0.49	4.75	1.03	4.70
Shoreham	0.38	6.38	0.53	6.38
Southampton	0.09	4.66	0.25	4.73
Swansea	8.06	9.69	8.26	9.54
Tees	5.25	5.26	5.36	5.44
W'ton-on-Nze	1.11	4.40	1.37	4.39

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 13C (55F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Tivington, Somerset 0.82in; highest sunshine: Skegness, Lincolnshire 7.2hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start bright and dry, with frost soon lifting. Sunny periods, but cloud and rain spreading from west in afternoon. Windy later.

Scotland will have showers in the west. Elsewhere dry and bright, with early frost lifting. Sunny periods but cloud and rain in afternoon. Windy later.

Northern Ireland will be bright and dry at first. Cloud and rain spreading from west in morning. Windy as wet weather spreads in

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** clear at first, patchy frost clearing. Sunny periods. Clouding in afternoon, rain later. Winds strong southerly later. Max 10C (50F)

☐ **Central S, E, SW, Central N England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales:** clear and dry start. Early frost clearing. Cloud and rain spreading from west. Wind becoming strong southerly. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

☐ **IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands:** Clear at first. Cloud quickly spreading from west. Rain before midday, clearing in evening. Showers later. Winds becoming strong southerly. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

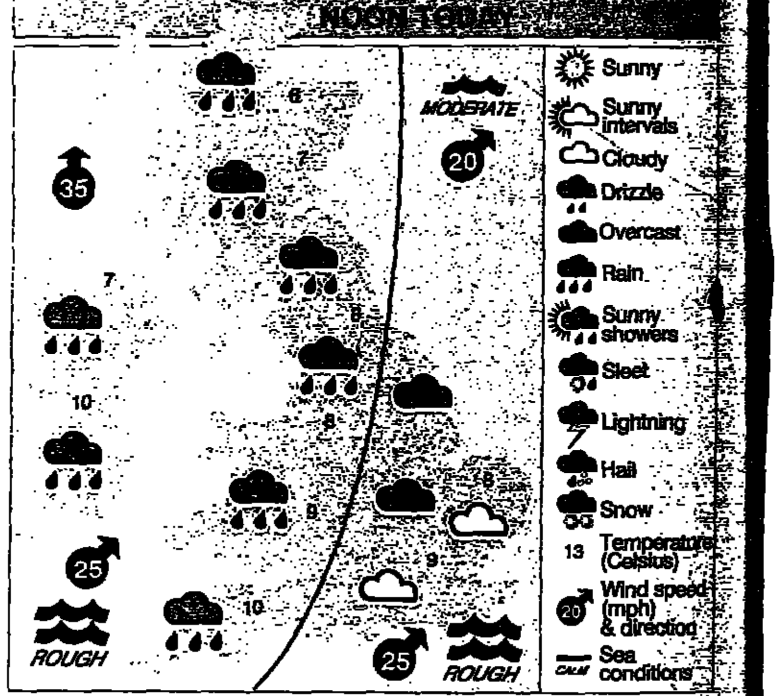
☐ **NW, NE England, Lakes, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** Clear and dry start. Early frost clearing. Cloud and rain spreading from west, clearing in evening. Wind becoming strong southerly. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** Clear intervals and showers. Then briefly dry before cloud and rain spread from west. Showers later. Strong southerly winds. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** Dry start then cloud and rain, turning showery in afternoon. Clearing later. Winds strong south-westerly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** Rain clearing on Sunday then windy with showers.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun	Rain	Max		
	hrs	in	C	F	
Aberdeen	4.9	-	9	48	b
Anglesey	1.7	0.28	9	48	r
Aspatria	2.5	0.11	8	46	b
Aviemore	3.2	0.06	7	45	sh
Belfast	0.9	0.17	7	45	sh
Birmingham	3.0	0.24	10	50	sh
Bognor R	2.0	0.09	11	52	r
Bournem'th	1.0	0.30	11	52	r
Bristol	0.1	0.38	10	50	r
Buxton	1.9	0.34	7	45	r
Cardiff	-	0.24	10	50	r
Clacton	3.2	0.04	10	50	s
Cromer	5.4	-	10	50	s
Doncaster	5.3	0.13	10	50	r
Eastbourne	2.6	0.01	11	52	c
Edinburgh	3.8	0.14	9	48	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.14	6	43	h
Exmouth	-	0.36	12	54	r
Falmouth	X	0.26	11	52	r
Fishguard	-	0.25	9	48	r
Folkestone	3.6	-	11	52	s
Glasgow	3.2	0.19	9	48	sh
Guernsey	-	0.20	13	55	sh
Hastings	3.1	0.08	10	50	sh
Hayling I.	2.3	0.07	11	52	r
Herne Bay	3.1	0.04	11	52	r
Hove	X	0.01	10	50	r
Hunstanton	5.1	-	9	48	r
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	3.3	0.03	9	48	s
Jersey	0.5	0.07	11	52	r
Kinloss	4.0	-	8	46	b
Leeds	1.3	0.09	9	48	r
Lerwick	4.1	0.20	7	45	sh
Leuchars	4.4	-	8	46	sh
Littlehmptn	2.4	0.07	11	52	r

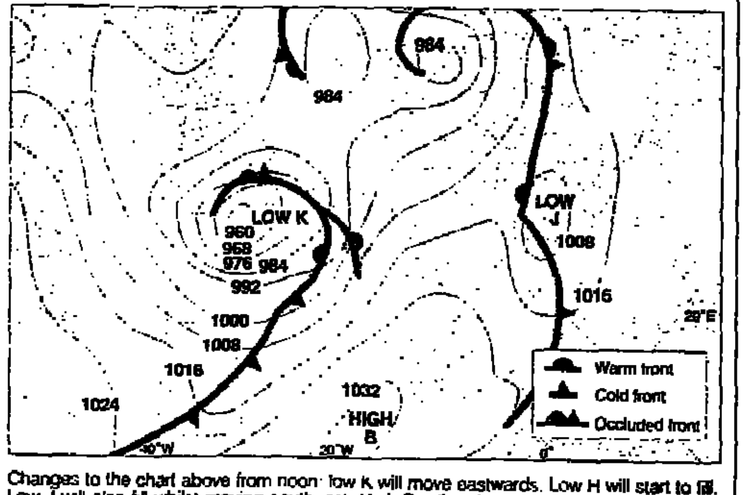
	Sun	Rain	Max		
	hrs	in	C	F	
Liverpool	2.3	0.13	9	48	r
London	2.7	0.17	11	52	r
Lowestoft	6.4	-	11	52	s
Manchester	2.6	0.13	9	48	r
Margate	-	0.04	11	52	sh
Minehead	-	0.69	10	50	h
Morecambe	2.3	0.07	8	46	r
Newcastle	5.8	0.09	9	48	b
Newquay	X				
Norwich	5.8	-	11	52	sh
Nottingham	3.6	0.25	10	50	r
Oxford	1.9	0.65	9	48	r
Penzance	-	0.23	11	52	gS
Plymouth	-	0.19	10	50	r
Poole	0.5	0.19	12	54	r
Prestatyn	X	0.22	10	50	r
Ross-o-wye	1.2	0.41	9	48	r
Sandown	1.6	0.12	11	52	b
Sauntn Snd	-	0.24	10	50	sh
Scarboro'	4.1	0.04	8	46	b
Scilly Isles	-	0.13	11	52	sh
Shrewsbury	2.7	0.30	9	48	r
Skegness	7.2	0.08	11	52	s
Southend	5.9	0.08	11	52	sh
Southport	2.7	0.22	8	46	r
Southsea	2.7	0.17	11	52	r
Stornoway	2.3	0.05	7	45	b
Swanage	0.5	0.29	11	52	r
Teignmouth	-	0.31	11	52	gS
Tenby	0.1	0.52	11	52	r
Tiree	4.2	0.17	8	46	sh
Torquay	-	0.38	11	52	r
Tynemouth	6.2	0.11	9	48	s
Ventnor	1.5	0.05	10	50	r
Weymouth	-	0.17	11	52	g

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f
Alex'dna	17	63	c
Algiers	22	72	s
Amst'dm	8	46	c
Athens	15	59	f
Bahrain	20	68	s
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barbados	-	--	
Barcelona	19	64	s
Beirut	17	63	f
Belgrade	11	52	f
Berlin	9	48	f
Bermuda	19	66	f
Biarritz	11	52	r
Borde'x	11	52	r
Brussels	8	46	f
Budapst	11	52	f
B Aires	27	81	c
Cairo	21	70	f
Cape Tn	32	90	s
Chicago	2	36	c
Ch'church	21	70	-
Cologne	10	50	f
C'phagn	3	37	r
Corfu	15	59	f
Dublin	5	41	c
Dubrovnik	14	57	s
Faro	17	63	c
Florence	9	48	c
Frankfurt	9	48	f
Funchal	20	68	s
Geneva	10	50	f
Gibraltar	20	68	s
Helsinki	2	36	d
Hong K	16	61	f
Innsbrck	11	52	s
Jeddah	24	75	f
Jo'burg	29	84	s
Karachi	31	88	s
L Palmas	20	68	f
Le Tquet	10	50	f
Lisbon	17	63	c
Locarno	12	54	s
L Angels	16	61	c
Luxembg	6	43	c
Luxor	24	75	s
Madrid	13	55	c
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	17	63	fg
Malta	18	64	s
Melb'rne	19	66	f
Mexico C	24	75	s
Miami	26	79	c
Milan	6	43	fg
Montreal	-4	25	s
Moscow	1	34	c
Munich	12	54	f
Nairobi	27	81	f
Naples	17	63	s
N Delhi	22	72	s
N York	3	37	f
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	1	34	sl
Paris	10	50	f
Peking	9	48	s
Perth	34	93	s
Prague	7	45	r
Reykjavik	-3	27	f
Rhodes	15	59	f
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	22	72	f
Rome	16	61	s
Salzburg	11	52	f
S F'risco	9	48	s
Santiago	31	88	s
S Paulo	28	82	f
Seoul	6	43	s
Sing'por	28	82	f
St'kholm	3	37	c
Strasb'rg	11	52	f
Sydney	20	68	d
Tangier	19	66	c
Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	9	48	s
Toronto	-1	30	r
Tunis	19	66	s
Valencia	21	70	s
Vanc'ver	1	34	f
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	13	55	f
Warsaw	8	46	f
Wash'ton	1	34	r
Wel'ngton	21	70	s
Zurich	10	50	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low K will move eastwards. Low H will start to fill. Low J will also fill whilst moving southeast. High B will maintain its central pressure and extend eastwards

Ignore the geese, fly south for the summer.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18 1995

Trafalgar attacks incentive package

Northern fights bid by luring investors

By Martin Waller and Philip Bassett

IN AN all-out attempt to avoid a £1.2 billion hostile takeover by Trafalgar House, Northern Electric has offered a package of incentives worth more than £5 a share to its shareholders *in an attempt to keep their* loyalty.

The news sent Northern's share price, already well ahead of the £10.48 cash terms on offer, higher again and prompted similar rises in the value of the other regional electricity companies.

Northern ended 21p higher *at £11.12p. Other bid candi*dates in the sector also rose. Manweb, serving north Wales and the northwest, was up 18p to 859p, and South Wales was ahead by 28p to 884p.

The political outcry over the bid, which offers Trafalgar significant tax incentives, *rumbled on after the Government's* widely-criticised decision earlier this week not to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Government's "negligence" over the bid would cost the taxpayer up to £270 million, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, claimed yesterday. Labour has re*newed calls for a full MMC* investigation of the planned takeover.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, will on Monday lead a Labour debate in the Commons on the Government's alleged failure to act over Trafalgar's bid.

Mr Brown said yesterday that the Government's decision would leave other privatised utilities open to takeover. He specifically mentioned Yorkshire Electricity as "vulnerable" to a takeover by Hanson. "Government negligence is costing the taxpayer millions," he added.

Speaking in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northern's home base, Mr Brown said that £223 million would be lost to the Treasury because if Trafalgar *succeded, it would use* Northern's profits, and therefore its tax liabilities, to relieve the company of surplus Advanced Corporation Tax. A further £50 million would be lost by Trafalgar sheltering the gain which Northern receives from this summer's flotation of the National Grid.

Northern shareholders will vote on the incentives package after the bid timetable has run its course. The company has buttressed its defence with hefty profits and dividends forecasts for coming years. David Morris, the Northern chairman, told shareholders:

"You would be giving up significant value by accepting the Trafalgar House offer. A continuing investment in Northern would be worth significantly more."

The incentives package comes in three parts:

☐ A special one-off dividend of £1.50 per share, costing Northern £167 million outright and as much as £42 million in addition in Advanced Corporation Tax.

☐ The issue of £111 million worth of unredeemable new preference shares, worth on issue at least £1 for every Northern share. Or shareholders can accept a cash alternative.

☐ A forecast that Northern's 6.5 per cent holding in the National Grid, which connects the power generators to the regional distributors, will be handed over direct to shareholders. Northern says its share, on the basis of City forecasts of the Grid's worth, will be equivalent to a further £2.57 per share.

In addition the company is forecasting a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to at least £150 million in the current year, to March 31, and earnings per share 21 per cent ahead at 97p. Total dividends of 33p would represent an increase of a third, and dividends for the next two years will be raised *by another 13 per cent each* year.

The package was immediately attacked by Trafalgar. "It's all done with mirrors," said Nigel Rich, the chief executive. Simon Keswick, the chairman, added: "All the Northern board's smokescreen about regionalism and Trafalgar's suitability to own an electricity company has evaporated into a plea for a higher bid, combined with a scheme to strip the company of its cash."

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3044.2	(-6.9)
Yield	4.11%	
FT-SE A All share	1505.80	(-2.59)
Nikkei	18020.51	(-239.92)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3975.07	(-12.45)*
S&P Composite	483.83	(-1.39)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5⅞%*	(5 15/16%)
Long Bond	100 13/32*	(100 17/32)
Yield	7.59%*	(7.58%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6¾%	(6 21/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	101 19/32	(101 21/32)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5767*	(1.5785)
London:		
$	1.5763	(1.5785)
DM	2.3435	(2.3524)
FFr	8.1570	(8.1810)
SFr	1.9844	(1.9872)
Yen	153.66	(153.81)
£ Index	87.1	(87.1)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.4860*	(1.4890)
FFr	5.1700*	(5.1800)
SFr	1.2588*	(1.2602)
Yen	97.47*	(97.40)
$ Index	61.8	(61.8)
Tokyo close Yen 97.64		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	$17.00	($16.90)
GOLD		
London close	$378.25	($377.05)

* denotes midday trading price

MARTIN BEDDALL

On the up: David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric. Northern shares rose 21p.

Mexican crisis scuttles dollar

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE DOLLAR dropped to its lowest level against the mark since October 1992 because of the Mexican crisis, before recovering slightly on unconfirmed talk of intervention by the American Federal Reserve.

Fed intervention was suspected after the Bank of Japan surprised the markets by buying dollars against the yen early in European trading. Despite this, the dollar fell to within one yen of its post-war low against the Japanese currency.

Later, the central banks of Italy and Portugal intervened in favour of their currencies against the mark, which has been strengthening across a broad front all week. Sterling ended the week on a more stable note, its trade weighted index closing unchanged from Thursday at 87.1, but analysts continued to predict that the pound will be weighed down by political turmoil in the Conservative Party.

The mark has gained about 2 per cent against the lira and sterling in the past six trading sessions and around 4 per cent *against the US currency*. Yesterday's late rebound in the dollar, while intervention was suspected by some, was probably tied more to renewed hopes that a rescue package for Mexico will come to fruition. The peso rebounded yesterday on this speculation.

The dollar also gained some ground after figures showed that the US trade deficit had improved in December, falling to $7.34 billion from $10.04 billion in November. This was more positive news but set against it was the fact that the deficit soared by more than 40 per cent during 1994 as a whole.

The strength of the mark comes even before Germany follows moves to raise interest rates in the rest of the world and partly reflects political and economic problems in alternative investment currencies.

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Trust wins court approval for Wellcome stake sale

By Sarah Bagnall

THE High Court yesterday ruled that the Wellcome Trust can sell its 39.5 per cent holding in Wellcome, a move *welcomed by all three sides.*

Wellcome, which is fending off a hostile £9.2 billion bid from Glaxo, secured an extra eight days to the bid timetable, increasing the time it has available to find a white knight to top Glaxo's offer. The latest date that the trust's acceptance of Glaxo's £10.25 a share offer must be submitted has been extended from February 28 to March 8.

The trust had irrevocably accepted Glaxo's offer but, after representations from Wellcome, the court agreed that the trust would be able to withdraw *this commitment* if a higher offer materialised. It can be terminated if the higher offer is announced before Glaxo's offer becomes wholly unconditional.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive of Wellcome, said: "The ruling is great encouragement to our efforts to achieve a better offer for all our shareholders and gives us more time in which to do so."

The Glaxo camp also welcomed the court's decision, without which its offer could not proceed. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said: "We are pleased that the High Court has made an order enabling the Wellcome Trust to sell its Wellcome shares. We look forward to receiving the Wellcome Trust's acceptance in respect of its entire holding on or before the initial closing date of March 8."

Sir Richard: pleased

Glaxo's shares remained unchanged at 641p while Wellcome's shares firmed 5p to £10.28, 5p above the current value of Glaxo's offer. The rise above the offer price suggests market hopes that the company might find a white knight are growing.

The court previously approved two share sales by the trust, which has reduced its *holding from* 100 per cent since 1986. Approval was needed bcause the sale of the balance of the trust's holding represents a change in policy.

Melvyn Marckus, page 26

Tibet hotels soar to dizzy heights

By Colin Narbrough
World Trade Correspondent

TIBET, roof of the world, has embraced the terrestrial market with the debut of Tibet Pearl Star, its first listed company, *on the Shanghai stock exchange.*

The exchange yesterday saw the Tibetan hotel company soar 70 per cent from its issue price on its first day of trading.

The frantic cries of dealers were a far cry from the traditional Tibetan world of buddhist monks, prayer wheels, rancid butter and yak's milk. Tibet Pearl is clearly a company intent on being part of the modern *business* world.

The company listed 27 million "A" shares, which are restricted to domestic investors. The shares opened at 5.5 yuan (42p) each, a premium of 2 yuan (15p) to the issue price, and ended the first day at almost 6 yuan (46p), despite an overall fall in the market.

Although China's communist administration has not given direct tax incentives to Tibet Pearl, Peking is giving strong backing to Tibetan companies to foster businesses among ethnic minorities. But only 10 per cent of the issue went to native Tibetans, which is hardly likely to help to suppress resistance to Chinese rule.

Since China occupied Tibet in 1959, forcing the Dalai Lama, the country's religious leader to flee the country, Peking has been attacked for promoting Chinese migration that threatens to swamp Tibet's indiginous people.

The initial public offering of Tibet Pearl last month brought a flood of investors to Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, some having to carry oxygen, as well as cash, to cope with the altitude. The offer attracted 2 billion yuan.

From its humble beginnings as a Tibetan restaurant in China's Sichuan province, Tibet Pearl has expanded into a 48 million yuan business with 10 hotels in Tibet, but the jewel in its corporate crown is a highly profitable three-star hotel in Chengdu, the flourishing capital of Sichuan, that is an almost compulsory stopover for travellers on their way from China to Tibet.

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Glaxo still ahead in the Wellcome stakes

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Judging from Glaxo's little tilt at Wellcome, industrialists brought up in the straitlaced culture of organic growth can undergo fearsome transformations given a breath of rarefied air from the summit of Mount Acquisition.

Glaxo, as Wellcome's defence document points out, has not made a significant acquisition since 1978. So be it. To liken Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, to a man of the cloth stooping to the temptations of a red light district may over-daub the scenario but it serves to illustrate the irony of the affair. Put another way, perennial habitués of the red light vicinities, where purchases of one sort or another are a way of life, can learn a thing or two from the way in which Glaxo has embarked on the UK's largest ever takeover sortie.

How refreshing to see a £9 billion takeover bid described as a "final" offer from the outset, albeit subject to the appearance of a counter bidder. In the event, Glaxo's share and cash terms, unveiled last month, valued Wellcome's shares at £10.25. This represented a premium of close on 50 per cent above the prevailing 688p and signalled an exit p/e ratio of a shade over 23 on historic earnings. This was cut to nearer 19 in the wake of Wellcome's 19 per cent rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £738 million. Neither the huffing and puffing of John Robb, chairman and chief executive of Wellcome, nor a similar expenditure of hot air from advisers Barings and Morgan Stanley, has shaken the market's perception that the terms are certainly "fair" and arguably "full".

Congratulations, incidentally, to Dr Jonathan Gelles, an analyst at Wertheim Schroder, Schroders' Wall Street associate. Last July, he opined that Wellcome might well prove a takeover candidate: a prediction highlighted in our *Pennington* column. With the share price languishing not far north of £6, Gelles forecast that Wellcome could attract an offer in the region of £9. Gelles is not only perspicacious but also conservative.

Robb, clearly of a less conservative disposition, insisted that Glaxo's terms were "inadequate" and chose to jet off, far and wide, in search of a drug company that had the wit to appreciate that Gelles, Sykes, the Wellcome Trust (with a key 39.5 per cent stake) and the stock market had all got it wrong.

No easy task but a chairman, particularly one who is also a chief executive, presumably knows best. Fiduciary duties can be interpreted in all sorts of ways but the City, most certainly, was not going to fault Robb for attempting to obtain a higher price for shareholders. Word has it that, before Glaxo unveiled its inadequate £9 billion offer, Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare combine, had flirted with Wellcome. Bearing this in mind, the chances are that Johnson & Johnson appeared high on Robb's list of transatlantic courtesy calls. Alas, Johnson & Johnson is not an aggressive concern, as befits an enterprise best known for a powder associated with baby's bottoms. Talc, by all accounts, is in: merger talks with Wellcome appear to be out. Sandoz, the Swiss combine, has publicly proclaimed that it is not a contender for Wellcome. In all probability, Robb has also sounded out the likes of Merck and Pfizer in the US and conceivably Roche (currently absorbing Syntex) in Switzerland.

So far, there has been no stampede to top Glaxo's terms and time, for Wellcome's "any bidder but Glaxo" strategy, is clearly running out. Yesterday brought news that the High Court has duly given Wellcome Trust the go-ahead to pledge its troth irrevocably. This little ceremony is scheduled to take place on March 8, the first closing date of the bid, unless a third party raises the ante.

Such news — much as expected — comes hard on the heels of Thursday's report by Citywatch, an investment research organisation, that most of Wellcome's major institutional shareholders are prepared to fall in line behind Wellcome Trust and accept Glaxo's terms. Some ten institutions, led by the Pru (4.06 per cent) and Schroder Investment Management (3.12 per cent), hold a little over 20 per cent of Wellcome's equity. Acceptances of just 10.6 per cent will suffice for Glaxo to clinch control. That said, Glaxo's camp is leaving little to chance. Sykes and his colleagues embarked on a takeover roadshow yesterday: an act that will be performed before some 25 City institutions.

Wellcome's share price, at £10.28, achieved a modest premium against Glaxo's terms yesterday although, if one juggles with dividend considerations, it can be argued that Glaxo's terms are worth £10.35. All the same, fund managers and analysts alike appear to have accepted Sykes's argument that consolidation in the quest for global market share and greater efficiency, is inevitable. Glaxo Wellcome would emerge as the largest drug company in the world with pharmaceutical sales in the region of £8.25 billion — some 40 per cent ahead of Merck. Even then, Glaxo Wellcome's share of the world market would be little more than 5.3 per cent compared with Sykes's publicly declared target of 10 per cent.

Takeover power plays hold a strange fascination, the quaintest aspect of the Glaxo/Wellcome battle being Robb's apparent refusal to hold discussions with Sykes. Searching for companies that perceive Wellcome as a "steal" must, inevitably, have taken up a little time. That said, it must be exceedingly difficult for a casual observer to understand why, when one company bids £9 billion for another, the chairman and chief executive of the latter cannot find the time, or the inclination, to discuss the matter with the bidder.

Robb clearly takes the view that the Wellcome Trust has pulled the rug of independence from under Wellcome's feet. So, to all intents and purposes, it has. But, then again, did Robb's camp ensure that proper bridges were built between Wellcome and its major shareholder? Why did Sir Roger Gibbs, chairman of the Wellcome Trust, not sit on Wellcome's board?

In the wake of the court ruling, Glaxo is clearly favourite to succeed. That said, Sykes is understood to have held talks with Zeneca prior to launching the bid for Glaxo: talks that are said to have focused the minds at Zeneca wonderfully. Zeneca would be my outsider to attempt a counter — all things being equal which, thanks to Sykes's poker game with Wellcome Trust, they are not.

Ammunition firms' merger not seen as security threat

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

THE Government is willing to approve a merger of the biggest ammunition companies in Britain and France. In spite of difficulties over obtaining shells from Belgium, a Nato ally, during the Gulf War, the Government has concluded that such a move poses no substantial threat to national security.

Year-long talks between British Aerospace and Giat, the French state arms company, about merging ammunition manufacture, are approaching a critical phase. Combining BAe's Royal Ordnance subsidiary, which has 5,500 employees, with Giat's ammunition arm, which has 3,000 workers, would enable rationalisation to rebuild both parties' profitability.

In his speech introducing Thursday's Navy debate Roger Freeman, the Minister of State for Procurement, said a deal could be agreed without any danger to British arms supplies.

Although details of the proposals had yet to emerge, "in principle, we would not see production sharing in an Anglo-French industrial collaboration as fundamentally threatening to our security of supply," he told MPs.

Mr Freeman's highlighting of the discussions has raised expectations of a deal. A BAe spokesman said: "Progress is undoubtedly being made."

However, final agreement may have to await the outcome of the French presidential election in May. Giat has accumulated losses of Fr3.4 billion (£416 million) and its president, Pierre Chiquet, is understood to be pressing for the state to inject Fr3 billion (£367 million) through a recapitalisation to pave the way for a deal and the subsequent rationalisations.

Giat is best known for its Leclerc tank, chosen ahead of Vickers' Challenger 2 last year by the United Arab Emirates in a £2.4 billion deal. It also makes artillery and small arms and already collaborates with BAe on several weapons programmes.

A joint venture between the two companies would be expected to strengthen substantially the competitiveness of Europe's two biggest ammunition makers and set the scene for further collaboration on artillery programmes and possibly on armoured vehicles.

Giat's ammunition business, Euro Impact, is spread across ten sites and has annual sales of about Fr2.6 billion (£318 million). It forms part of a group which is expected to have lost about Fr1.1 billion (£135 million) in 1994 on sales of Fr9 billion (£1.1 billion). Last year was the fourth consecutive year of losses.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Peter Birse, left, chairman of Birse Group, the builder and civil engineer, with Martin Budder, finance director, saw pre-tax losses of £678,000 (£1.4 million) in the six months to October 31. The loss per share is 0.3p (2.1p loss): there is no dividend (nil).

Scholey concentrates on Warburg

By Neil Bennett
deputy business editor

SIR DAVID SCHOLEY, chairman and chief executive of S G Warburg, has resigned as a GEC director and a BBC governor to concentrate on returning the merchant bank to health. Sir David decided to leave the jobs on Monday when he was appointed Warburg's chief executive after the resignation of Lord Cairns.

His posts as a director of Chubb Corporation in the US and the London School of Economics are also in doubt, given his increased commitment to Warburg. Sir David only joined the BBC in March 1994 and his term was due to last until 1999. He joined GEC in 1992. He had lined up both posts for his planned retirement in May, now cancelled.

He is also a director of the Bank of England, a post he has held since 1986, but is thought keen to retain it.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New stores boost Safeway sales

ARGYLL yesterday delivered an upbeat message on sales growth at its Safeway supermarket chain, but gave warning that gross margins remained under pressure. The group said sales in the 17 weeks to February 11 rose by 9 per cent, with 7.6 per cent contributed by new stores and 1.4 per cent by existing stores. The upturn was helped by a strong performance over Christmas, with like-for-like sales rising by 4 per cent in the four weeks to December 31.

The growth still lagged that of its main competitors, however, with J Sainsbury reporting a 5.5 per cent rise in underlying sales over a similar period and Tesco the biggest increase with 7 per cent. Gross margins are expected to be slightly below those in the second half of last year as a result of Safeway's moves to sharpen its pricing. **Tempus, page 28**

Rathbone buys broker

RATHBONE BROTHERS, the private client banking and fund management group, is buying Laurence Keen, a City-based broker and fund manager, in a £9.96 million deal that will create one of the UK's biggest independent private client practices. The enlarged group will have £1.7 billion in discretionary funds under management. Laurence Keen will continue to trade under its own name. The deal is subject to shareholder approval. Rathbone said it expects pre-tax profits for 1994 to be not less than £6 million for the year to December 31. The shares closed up 5p at 278p.

Tepnel chairman quits

THE chairman of Tepnel Life Sciences, the biotechnology group that came to the market in 1993, resigned yesterday after barely six months in the job. Harold Morley said it was "the right time" for him to stand down. Anthony Martin, a former managing director of British Biotech, becomes acting chairman. Tepnel announced deepening losses of £2.4 million (£1.4 million loss) in the year to September 30. There is a loss per share of 10.3p (6p) and no dividend (nil). The shares, which were trading at more than 180p a year ago, closed down 1p at 30p.

Clydesdale staff strike

THE first one-day strike at the Clydesdale Bank was hailed as a success by members of the Bifu finance union. More than 50 branches were closed as a result of yesterday's action, which was in protest at plans to link pay to performance only, leaving up to 10 per cent of staff with a slim pay rise or none at all. Bifu is seeking a minimum increase of 4 per cent for all staff, with a further payment linked to performance. Clydesdale has proposed an average performance-linked payment of 3.5 per cent. A further one-day strike is planned for Monday, February 27.

Drug trial setback hits British Biotech

BRITISH BIOTECH, the UK biotechnology company, has had a setback in final trials of one version of batimastat, its lead product, which is likely to delay the launch of the cancer treatment until the end of 1997 (writes Sarah Bagnall).

The nine-month setback knocked 140p off the shares before they bounced back to end the day 99p down at 491p. The warrants tumbled even further, at one point touching 39p before recovering to 50p, 86p down on the day. The warrants are exerciseable at 525p in January 1996.

The setback — painful side effects suffered by patients with malignant ascites — affects about one third of the drug's programme. It was due to a change in the manufacturing process, which is being reversed.

Tempus, page 28

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.24	2.07
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05
Belgium Fr ..	51.39	47.09
Canada $	2.338	2.178
Cyprus Cyp£	0.770	0.715
Denmark Kr ...	9.89	9.09
Finland Mkk ..	7.86	7.21
France Fr	8.62	7.97
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	390.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.84	11.84
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel	5.2345	4.4845
Italy Lira	2635.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	168.00	152.00
Malta	0.612	0.557
Netherlds Gld	2.789	2.559
Norway Kr	10.91	10.11
Portugal Esc ..	254.50	236.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.34
Spain Pta	211.00	197.00
Sweden Kr	12.23	11.43
Switzerland Fr	2.12	1.94
Turkey Lira	refer	63600.0
USA $	1.676	1.546

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UMIST: Harold Hankins and Sir Roland Smith

Dream of an ideal business school nears reality

partners in power

Jon Ashworth visits the two academics who share a passion for higher education and Manchester United

HOWARD BARLOW

Sir Roland Smith — the Prof — is a marketing pioneer; Harold Hankins is a senior academic. Their dream is to build an institution to rival Harvard

Back in the Sixties, two young academics dusted down their textbooks and decided to apply some of their theoretical ideas to the "real" world of commerce. One nearly unlocked the door to untold riches. The other went on to win fame as a director of numerous companies, only to watch in bewilderment as his greatest triumph turned to farce. Today, the wheel has turned full circle for Harold Hankins and Professor Sir Roland Smith.

Next January, Sir Roland — or the Prof, to use his more popular sobriquet — becomes chancellor of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), where he pioneered his ideas as Professor of Marketing all those years ago. Professor Hankins is about to retire after more than a decade as principal of an institution which has just become a university in its own right. Together, they hope to make a lasting legacy in the shape of a new world-class business school.

Some £10 million has been raised towards the Manchester Federal School of Business and Management, which aims to combine three faculties under one umbrella. Sir Roland has tapped his old City contacts to raise money for a new centrepiece building. Hankins, who brought him in on the project six years ago, has been badgering away to keep plans on track. The hope is to build an institution to rank with Harvard.

That is the dream. Reality finds these two veterans reclining in the principal's study, all musty books and ageing photographs. Hankins, 64, looks no different from any other senior academic, his eyes magnified by thick spectacles. Sir Roland, 66, cuts a timeless figure, big-framed and craggy, his hair scraped back.

The winter of 1995 finds the Prof cordial but wary; hale and hearty, but watchful behind the smiles, his senses honed by countless press maulings. His suspicion is understandable. To some, the Prof is the marketing genius who breathed new life into British boardrooms. He was hailed by the late Sir Hugh Fraser (before they fell out) as "one of the few people in Britain [to] combine high academic respectability with business credibility". To snipers in the press, he was never much more than an opportunist who played the system. "He's a salesman," says one. "Don't be misled by the word 'academic'."

The first of the two savage encounters for which he is best remembered came in 1982, at the height of the battle with Tiny Rowland over House of Fraser. Rowland, with a sizeable investment at stake, proposed that Harrods be demerged from the rest of the stores group, as indeed it eventually was.

The Prof, brought in to revive the group's fortunes and subsequently made chairman, disagreed with this strategy. He told Rowland: "If this is your idea of a game, would you please play it somewhere else in future. We have work to do . . . Get your tanks off our lawn."

> We share a love of higher education and the importance of it to industry and commerce

The second clash left the Prof winded and limping; destined, some would say, for a twilight career on the fringes of business life. In October 1990, three years into his job as chairman of British Aerospace, he was riding high on his newly won title of Britain's busiest boss, with 11 boardroom posts to his name. He was to resign the BAe chairmanship abruptly a year later, pushed out by institutions seething over dwindling profits and an untimely rights issue. His detractors spoke of opaque accounts and claimed he was out of his depth. Others say it was simply a case of a dominant personality who outstayed his welcome.

The Prof still has his admirers. He continues to sit on an impressive number of boards, ranging from the Bank of England to Readicut International. He has been chairman of Manchester United since 1991, and is consultant to a number of public companies. The chancellorship of Umist is simply the next in a long line of appointments.

While the Prof was making a name for himself as a marketing expert, Hankins was carving a reputation as a lecturer in electrical engineering. He left school at 16 with a view to studying engineering, but his father, a house painter and decorator, had a quiet word, and Hankins ended up in the rail workshops in Crewe as a fitter and turner. He won a scholarship — to Umist — and graduated in 1955 with a first in mechanical engineering.

Early on in a 15-year stint with Metropolitan Vickers he dreamed up the invention that should have made him a millionaire many times over — the visual display unit (VDU). His superiors failed to recognise its potential. One famously asked: "This device of yours, does it have a future?" Hankins replied: "One day, every child will have one in their room and play games on it." His boss sent him off with a flea in his ear.

The experience did much to colour his thinking. "I got rather fed up with industry," he recalls. "I came here to make sure ideas were properly nurtured."

Hankins returned to the academic life in 1968, won his professorship six years later and was appointed the principal of Umist in 1982. Both men talk passionately about the need for an interplay between commerce and academia. "Business, fundamentally, is about technology," barks Sir Roland in his flat Mancunian tones. "You can't have engineers who don't understand commercial life. I wouldn't like to be flying on an aircraft designed by a management scientist."

Hankins agrees. "We share a love of higher education and the importance of it to industry and commerce. Put the two together, and you have something that is very unique." AromaScan, which makes electronic sniffer equipment, evolved from research at Umist.

Sir Roland is hard-pressed to recall how a policeman's son from the rough side of Manchester came to be hailed as a marketing pioneer. "There is a natural move towards marketing and selling in one's own behaviour," he reflects. "I've always been very innovative."

The men have much in common. Both are fanatical supporters of Manchester United and can boast 80 years of marriage between them. Hankins lives in Derbyshire with his wife, Kathleen. Sir Roland divides his time between a flat in London and the same modest house in Manchester he has shared with his wife, Joan, since 1965. His movements vary. "It depends on where Manchester United is playing," he chuckles.

The Prof makes light of the heart scare that saw him laid up in hospital for a few days last year. He was taken ill at Old Trafford and grew feverish as the doctors tried to bring his pulse rate down. "I saw a guy in a blue smock coming towards me with a pair of defibrillators," he recalls. "I said: 'You're not a Manchester City supporter, are you?' Funny the things you say . . ."

A quarter of a century on, the two men's paths have converged once more. Hankins retires in September with his dream of a world-class business school for Manchester more attainable than ever. Sir Roland steps into the ceremonial role of chancellor, still arguing forcefully about the need to build bridges between academia and commerce. "To have a major influence on a centre of excellence like this is very significant," he says. "I feel very special about it. I've come from the shop floor, you might say."

Testing for competence to do the job, not mastery of detail

John Underhill examines a pilot project to assess new chartered accountants

How competent is a newly qualified chartered accountant? Certainly, he or she has just completed three years of demanding study, passed the professional examinations and learnt the job by working in a training office of a professional practice or other business.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants recognises that future employers, and future business and private clients, will also be interested in precisely what skills its newly qualified members will be able to demonstrate. So it is evaluating whether a test of competence based on what candidates can show they can do satisfactorily as well as how much they know, would be as discriminating as the present examination system.

A pilot scheme has been set up for trainees specialising in taxation who enter training in September 1994 and 1995.

The training that these candidates receive will be exactly the same as before. But they will not be required to sit the existing professional intermediate or final examination in taxation. Instead, they will sit a special paper to test the range and depth of their knowledge, and will also be continuously assessed against performance standards at their daily work.

The institute is also setting up a new structure so that managers in the training firms learn the best way to assess trainees as they progress through their training contract.

This initiative by the Institute is part of the much wider debate in this country, actively encouraged by industry and the Government, about how the real skills of the working poplulation can be enhanced. It has led to the establishment of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) which are now reaching into what were previously considered to be professional qualifications. The Association of Accounting Technicians, for example, now specifies its examination syllabus in terms of competencies, or what the candidates should be able to do to satisfy the examiners, rather than simply testing what they know. The development of units of competence in management through the Management Charter Initiative and similar work by the Law Society is likely to lead to radical change in the approach to professional qualifications and examinations. Conversely, the Government recognises that the professional qualifications themselves represent more than simply the demonstration of knowledge and skills: creativity and professional ethics also characterise the competent professional.

Key to the competence approach is work-based assessment: the need for candidates to demonstrate, through real work and experience, that they can actually do the job to the required standard. The most important role of the professional body is to set those standards, which determine the range, depth and extent of the work necessary to qualify.

When they have been set, candidates can be assessed. So assessment, which is very similar to performance appraisal, becomes a vital responsibility of the employer. To ensure equivalence, his assessment arrangements are verified externally by a representative of the professional body. The whole system is therefore integrated with actual work, and if properly planned, prepared and performed will be effective.

A further feature of the competence approach to qualification is that candidates can satisfy the assessor at any time, provided they have demonstrated the required competence. The days of mass examinations and needing to perform well on the day may be fading.

The institute is planning for a growing take-up of its pilot initiative. Three big firms and several smaller ones have signed up. More are expected. The training of assessors and evaluation of taxation training and assessment arrangements within firms has started. Enormous energy and enthusiasm is going into this initiative to improve professional training and assessment, and further enhance the chartered accountant's status in the business world. After all, doing the job is what really matters, and training to fulfil that objective is what will be demanded by employers and clients alike.

☐ *The author, tax partner at Bird Luckin, chartered accountants, is External Verifier (Moderator) for the pilot competence project.*

Accountancy examination results, pages 15, 17 and 19

Mass examinations may become a thing of the past: candidates will be able to satisfy the assessor at any time

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Shares and gilts miss out on New York's record run

SHARES and gilts ended what had proved to be a difficult week on a flat note.

The uncertain economic outlook and political bickering of the past few days has taken its toll on investor confidence leaving prices to trade over much of yesterday in narrow limits with the City continuing to closely monitor the pound. The FT-SE 100 index saw a small lead wiped out to finish the day 6.9 down at 3,044.2, a fall on the week of 65.7.

Turnover was a mediocre 440 million shares. Perhaps this was in no small part due to the annual gathering of the Society of Investment Analysts the previous evening.

Nevertheless, there was no hiding the fact that it has been a disappointing week for investors with London failing to capitalise on Wall Street's record-breaking run that carried the Dow Jones industrial average over the 4,000 level. Instead they have been forced to contend with evidence of a slow-down in the economy and a further rise in the cost of living. Many now think the next rise in interest rates cannot be far away.

The scope for a rally next week is also limited with Wall Street closed on Monday for President's Day and George Washington's birthday celebrations.

Among leaders, **Rank Organisation** advanced 5p to 373p before a presentation for fund managers arranged by Warburg Securities, the broker, on Monday. The market has also been encouraged by chairman Michael Gifford's purchase of 20,000 Rank shares earlier this week at 386p.

Allied Domecq fell 6p to 498p, reflecting cautious comments from BZW, the broker, which is worried about the group's exposure to Mexico where it is the country's biggest producer of tequila.

BAT Industries fell 9p to 432p after reports that NatWest Securities, the broker, had downgraded the group's net asset value. NatWest also left **Wolseley**, the building products group, 15p lower at 360p, telling clients it has been hit by the depressed US housing market and could see its share price fall to 320p in the short-term.

NatWest was also in a scathing mood about **Kingfisher**, down 6p at 414p, which it describes as the "retailer of last resort". The broker draws the conclusion that "given the historical legacy of under-investment and the complete failure of management to even begin to address the fundamental issues, there can be no retail solution for Woolworths on a timescale which is acceptable to shareholders".

The battle for control of **Northern Electric**, up 21p at £11.12, has begun in earnest with Northern unveiling details of a new defence strategy and **Trafalgar House** coming under pressure to increase the terms of its £1.2 billion bid.

Northern's package of measures, designed to boost shareholder value, is said to be worth 507p a share. It includes payment of a special dividend worth £1.50 a share, a bonus issue of preference shares and a forecast that the distribution of its holding in the National Grid will be worth 247p a share. The group forecasts a 33 per cent rise in the year's dividend to 33p and pre-tax profits up 16 per cent at £150 million for the year to March 31.

Brokers are ruling out the possibility of a white knight emerging and are convinced Trafalgar will now be forced to raise its offer, currently worth £10.48 a share. Trafalgar, 1½p lower at 67½p, was critical of Northern's defence strategy. It said the group had effectively promised to pay shareholders £167 million of their own money back to reject the bid.

Conditions do not seem to be getting any easier in the food price war. **Argyll**, the Safeway supermarket chain, were unchanged at 273p after issuing a trading statement which covered the busy Christmas period. During the 17 weeks to February, sales grew 9 per cent with same-store sales up 1.4 per cent. But it was at the expense of margins which showed a further decline during the second half. A further seven Safeway stores are expected to be opened before the end of March.

First time dealings in **Photobition**, the photographic equipment group, got off to an encouraging start opening at 156p compared with a placing price of 150p, valuing the company at £15.5 million. Photobition was the subject of a management buy-out after FKB, its parent company, went bust five years ago.

Southern Business Group, the photocopier supplier, climbed 6p to 65p after confirming City speculation that it was in bid talks. The speculators are talking of a bid of 80p a share, valuing the company at £78 million, from either **Danka Business Systems** or Alco Standard Equipment in the US. Danka finished 3p better at 368p.

Stanhope Properties, the debt-laden property developer, saw its shares resume trading on the Unlisted Securities Market after publication of British Land's proposed £3.5 million rescue package. The shares re-opened at 2¾p having been suspended at 8p in December. They eventually closed at 3p matching the cash offer from **British Land**, 2p better at 371p. As part of the deal, British Land has agreed to repay Stanhope's bank borrowings of £122 million.

British Biotechnology slumped 91p to 491p after warning of delays to trials of a key cancer drug.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts recovered early falls stretching to £¼ in an otherwise lacklustre session before closing with losses of just a few ticks on the day. Investors appeared reluctant to open fresh positions.

The low turnover was reflected in the futures pit where the March series of the Long Gilt eased £¹/₁₆ to £101¹⁹/₃₂ as just 36,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost three ticks at £95⁵/₁₆, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 fell a similar amount to £97¹⁷/₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK**: A weak bond market and a sell-off in shares of Motorola, the high-tech giant, combined to push Wall Street shares lower in late morning. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 12.45 points at 3,975.07.

Safeway sales rose 9 per cent, but at the expense of margins

Hardy Oil stood out with a leap of 17p to 156p as almost 5 million shares changed hands. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, and rival Cazenove, have turned buyers of the stock. Kleinwort is excited by talk of a potential oil discovery off the coast of Timor and takes the view that the shares are substantially undervalued.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Northern Electric	£11.12	+130p	Trafalgar bid cleared
ACT Group	103p	+27p	Agreed bid from Misys
Metrotect Industries	39p	-20p	Profits warnings
Auto Sec Holdings	68p	-6p	Talks with the banks
Yorkshire Elec	874p	+55p	Speculative buying
Sutcliffe Speakman	20p	-7p	Profits warning
Parkdean Leisure	173p	+34p	Agreed bid Vardon
British Biotechnology	491p	-94p	Cancer trials delay
Norcros	78p	-15p	Profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	3975.07 (-12.45)
S&P Composite	483.83 (-1.39)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	18020.51 (+239.92)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	8043.01 (-90.53)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	410.95 (+0.86)

Sydney:

AO	1856.2 (-4.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2117.03 (+1.31)

Singapore:

Straits	2137.13 (+4.06)

Brussels:

General	7072.70 (-19.61)

Paris:

CAC-40	1822.47 (-12.53)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	623.20 (-4.80)

London:

FT 30	2315.0 (-7.8)
FT 100	3044.2 (-6.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	3437.2 (-1.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1322.06 (-7.46)
FT A All-Share	1505.80 (-2.59)
FT Non Financials	1629.28 (-2.59)
FT Gold Mines	199.7 (-1.0)
FT Fixed Interest	109.74 (-0.08)
FT Govt Secs	91.06 (-0.04)
Bargains	20520
SEAQ Volume	440.0m
USM (Datastrm)	146.60 (-1.21)
US$	1.5765 (-0.0002)
German Mark	2.3466 (-0.0032)
Exchange Index	87.1 (same)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	1.2408
£:SDR	1.0607
RPI	146.0 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	13	...
Lazard Birla Ida	50½	-1¼
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	29½	-¼
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Mthsn Lloyds Inv (100)	81	...
Pentex Oil	85	-5
Photobition (150)	156	...
Wessex Trust	11¼	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	17	-1
Bath Press n/p (10)	3	...
Cadbury Schws Cv Ln n/p	82	+1½
European Colour n/p (57)	17	+2
Nat Home Lns n/p (110)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Rothmans	470p (+10p)
West Healthcare	305p (+12p)
Bluebird Toys	248p (+12p)
Hardy Oil & Gas	156p (+23p)
Sage Group	724p (+13p)
Go-Ahead	174p (+6p)
Greenalls Group	415p (+7p)

FALLS:

Meyer Int	320p (-15p)
Wolseley	360p (-15p)
BAT	432p (-9p)
Unitech	365p (-10p)
Pearson	563p (-8p)
British Biotech	491p (-99p)
De La Rue	1039p (-13p)
Boots	470p (-7p)
Kingfisher	414p (-6p)
Sothebys	708p (-12p)
Vendome	450p (-9p)
British Airways	379½p (-7½p)
Forth Ports	455p (-6p)
P&O	570p (-10p)
Barclays	605p (-6p)
Kleinwort Benson	623p (-8p)
Barratt Devs	163p (-6p)
RMC Group	938p (-6p)
ICI	731p (-6p)
Norbain	391p (-7p)
Williams Hldgs	325p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Northern comfort

ANY view of the Northern bundle of goodies that has been wheeled out to avoid a takeover by Trafalgar House must inevitably depend on whether one is a shareholder or a taxpayer. Northern proposes, if the Trafalgar boarding party can be fought off, to turn itself into an American-style utility, heavily geared — interest cover will be less than three times next financial year — and forced by this financial straight-jacket to avoid diversification.

Two thoughts occur. One is that this is precisely what Northern and the other 11 regional electricity companies should have been in the first place, and it is only government negligence and regulatory incompetence that has allowed them the leeway for such expensive gestures. The second is that the shareholders are not going to suffer too much from the new regime of financial rigour. The 33 per cent dividend rise forecast for the current year translates to 20 per cent if the 10 per cent share buyback Northern has already carried out is taken into account, which is pretty well in line with the rest of the sector, but an annualised 13 per cent thereafter looks generous enough for anyone.

One thing Northern has done for shareholders is to focus for the first time on the proper value of its National Grid holding. To do this, it has relied on certain assumptions that other Grid owners would rather have left unmentioned, such as a £750 million special divided extracted from the Grid and paid to the 12. The result is that Trafalgar will have to raise its bid to clinch control, and it is almost certainly prepared to do so. Shareholders are on a fine two-way bet — a higher bid or the goodies from Northern if it stays independent.

British Biotech

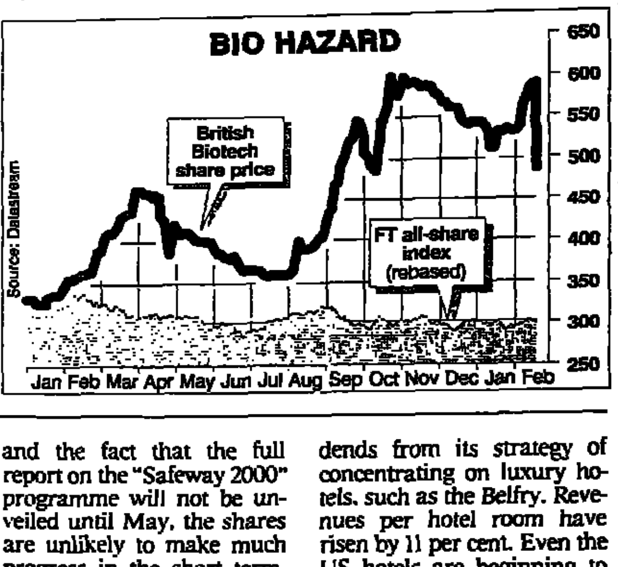
A LOT is riding on British Biotech, the biotechnology company. As the biggest star in the sector, its future partly dictates the prospects of the motley pack of fledgeling biotech stocks behind it.

The big risk in British Biotech's share price is its lead drug, batimastat, the cancer treatment. The drug's success could drive the shares up above £15 while its failure could knock them for six. As a result, yesterday's setback in the clinical trials for the use of batimastat for ovarian cancer hit the shares.

The shares shed 140p before bouncing back to end the day 99p down at 491p. The warrants fell even further. At one point they dived 97p to 39p before clambering back to 50p.

The stock is volatile at the best of times — in the past six months the shares have swung from about 350p to about 600p. There is little doubt the shares have been inflated by tantalising prospects for batimastat but the latest development is a hiccup not a catastrophe.

The bottom line is that a third of the batimastat programme is likely to be delayed for a year. The programme itself has not been derailed. There is no difference in the drug's possible efficacy or possible revenue streams. It is the timing of potential revenues that have changed. Batimastat was to be launched in the first quarter of 1997 — now expectations are for the end of 1997. In spite of this, the shares are a buy.



Argyll

ARGYLL shareholders will be relieved to see Safeway's underlying sales growth back on an upward trend after a distinctly wobbly patch last year. It could be argued, however, that the growth should have been even higher, given the group's more competitive pricing and array of marketing initiatives that were in place before Christmas. But its like-for-like sales growth still lags that of J Sainsbury and Tesco.

Cutting prices and launching more promotions has taken its toll on gross margins, which are expected to be below last year's. This comes at a time when its competitors, who entered the so-called "price wars" far earlier, are beginning to see their gross margins stabilise. Argyll had no option but to sharpen its price positioning, but is paying the penalty for being too slow off the mark.

Given the mixed picture and the fact that the full report on the "Safeway 2000" programme will not be unveiled until May, the shares are unlikely to make much progress in the short term. But Argyll is taking the right action, and in the longer term still looks a solid bet.

Greenalls

GREENALLS must each day bless its decision to pull out of brewing and to concentrate on pub, restaurant and hotel retailing. The fine terms it has negotiated from the major brewers enhance profits margins throughout the group, while the growth in its food sales keep revenues rising even though the pub industry is still suffering from low volumes.

That allowed Andrew Thomas, Greenalls' chairman, to deliver a far more upbeat current trading report to shareholders than the brewers at the group's annual meeting. The group is also finally beginning to earn dividends from its strategy of concentrating on luxury hotels, such as the Belfry. Revenues per hotel room have risen by 11 per cent. Even the US hotels are beginning to generate profits, which should finally enable the group to sell them.

The group's most problematic business remains the off-licence chain, which is being squeezed by the supermarkets and the cross-Channel booze cruise. The reorganisation of the chain into three brands last year has helped shore up profits, but progress is slow.

Greenalls' healthy trading performance will help provide the cash for the group's ambitious development plans. Throughout the recession, pubs and hotels have been hungry cash consumers. Now the payback has started. Greenalls should be able to expand its chains by acquisition, provided it can find suitable sites.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1033-1031	May	1060-1059
May	1025-1023	Jul	1070-1068
Jul	1033-1031	Sep	1080-1079
Sep	1042-1040	Dec	1096-1092
Dec	1043-1042		
Mar	1053-1052		Volume: 7268

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2923-2920	Nov	2760-2745
May	2852-2850	Jan	2750-2730
Jul	2792-2790	Mar	2750-2730
Sep	2770-2765		Volume: 4536

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	346.5-44.0
Spot. 403.0		Mar	343.5-40.2
May	402.0-01.3	May	342.8-38.3
Aug	383.5-82.8	Aug	340.8-35.3
Oct	352.0-50.8		Volume: 1528

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	82.50	121.68	122.59
(+/-)	-3.59	+3.58	+0.57
Eng/Wales:	82.53	122.02	122.04
(+/-)	-3.60	+3.47	+0.20
(%)	-10.0	-16.0	+6.0
Scotland:	79.12	120.42	125.15
(+/-)	-0.69	+4.66	+2.33
(%)	+45.0	+18.0	+2.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.35	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.00	+0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	16.85	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.75	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.65	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 169 (n/c)	O: 171 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	146 (+1)	147 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	147 (+1)	148 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	149 (+1)	150 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	103 (+1)	105 (+1)
Naphtha	167 (n/c)	168 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	144.00-44.25	Jun	146.00-46.50
Apr	146.00-46.25	Jul	147.50-47.75
May	145.75-46.25		Vol: 12160

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.01-17.02	Jul	16.70-16.72
May	16.84-16.85	Aug	16.60 BID
Jun	16.76-16.78		Vol: 13238

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.25	Mar	103.00
May	109.65	May	104.45
Jul	110.70	Sep	96.85
Sep	98.45	Nov	99.00
Nov	99.45	Jan	100.60
	Volume: 173		Volume: 82

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	284.0	278.3
May	310.0	307.5
Jun	unq	unq
		Volume: 119

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 114.25-114.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 95	2015	2010	2025
Mar 95	2025	2000	2025
Apr 95	2030	1995	2020
Jul 95	1765	1755	1765
Vol. 161 lots		Open interest: 3515	

Index 1992 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2881.0-2882.0	2975.0-2976.0	1005925
Lead ($/tonne)	573.00-574.00	592.00-592.50	132050
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1017.5-1018.0	1042.0-1043.0	409175
Tin ($/tonne)	5390.0-5395.0	5485.0-5490.0	27225
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1870.0-1871.0	1907.0-1908.0	1347975
Nickel ($/tonne)	8365.0-8370.0	8520.0-8525.0	43602

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom.	460	45	51½	61	2½	11½	14
(*495)	500	17½	26	37	14½	27½	29
Argyll	260	21	26	29½	6	11	13
(*273)	280	10½	15	19½	14½	21½	23
ASDA	60	8	10½	11	0½	1½	2
(*67)	70	1½	4½	5½	4	5½	6½
Boots	460	22	32½	36	8	16½	20½
(*470)	500	5	14	19½	32	42	43½
Br Airways	360	28½	37	43½	5½	13½	17½
(*379½)	390	11½	20½	28	18½	28½	32½
BP	390	28	35	41	4½	10½	13
(*413½)	420	11	19	25	17½	24	27
Br Steel	140	16	20	22½	1½	4	5½
(*153)	160	4	8½	11½	10	13	14½
C & W	360	31	38½	46	5	11½	16
(*382½)	390	12½	21	30	16½	25½	30
CU	493	33	—	—	10	—	—
(*523½)	543	7	—	—	39½	—	—
ICI	700	38	50	58½	15	24	30
(*730½)	750	10½	26½	35	44½	51	56½
Kingfishr.	390	34½	39	46	5	14½	18
(*414)	420	16½	22½	30½	16	29	33
Land Sec.	550	39½	47	51½	3½	14	17
(*580)	600	11	17½	24½	23	41½	44
M & S	360	24½	31	36	4½	9	12½
(*377)	390	7½	14½	20½	17	24	27
Nat West	460	32	42½	48	10	15	21½
(*490½)	500	10½	22½	28	30½	35½	42
Sainsbury	390	34	40½	46½	3	9½	12
(*417)	420	13½	22	29	12½	22½	24½
Shell	700	31½	44	55	10½	16½	23
(*726½)	750	6	19½	29	41	44½	49
Smkl Bch.	460	37½	47½	55½	6	11	16½
(*492)	500	13½	24½	33½	21	28½	34
Storehse	220	12½	17½	21	4	9	10
(*225½)	240	4	8	11½	15½	19½	21
Trafalgar	60	9½	10½	13½	0½	1½	3
(*67)	70	4	5	8	4	5½	6½
Unilever	1150	40½	67	90	24	35½	41½
(*1177½)	1200	19	42	63½	52½	62½	67½
Zeneca	850	60	77	91½	18½	26	36½
(*898)	900	30½	50	65	42½	49½	59½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met.	360	23½	28	34½	3	14	15½
(*368½)	390	9½	13½	20½	24½	29	31½
Ladbroke	160	17½	22	24½	4	6	8½
(*175)	180	6½	11½	14½	13	15½	18
Utd Bisc	330	27	32½	37	11	14½	18½
(*350)	360	11½	18	22½	27½	30½	34½

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	420	37	44½	50	3½	8½	10
(*449)	450	16½	—	—	12	—	—
Thames W	460	27	38	41½	6	18½	23½
(*476½)	500	8	17½	22	27½	42½	46

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	420	24½	31	36	20	25½	28½
(*432½)	460	7½	14½	19½	45½	50½	53½
BTR	300	16½	24	27	9½	13	17½
(*311)	330	5	11	14	29	31	35
Br Aero	448	42½	—	—	12½	—	—
(*479)	487	20½	—	—	29½	—	—
Br Telcm	360	34½	41	43½	3½	9	11
(*385)	390	15	22½	26	14½	22	24
Cadbury	409	29	39	—	8½	12	—
(*423½)	447	9½	19	—	27	31	—
Guinness	420	16½	25½	29½	16½	21	23½
(*421½)	460	4	11	14½	47	48½	50
GEC	280	16½	22	25	6	12	14
(*286)	300	7	12	15½	17	23½	25½
Hanson	220	20½	23½	25	2	5½	7
(*239)	240	8	12	14½	9½	14	16½
LASMO	140	15½	20	23½	3½	5	6½
(*151½)	160	5½	9½	13	13	14½	16
Lucas	180	17	23	26½	5½	8	11½
(*191)	200	7½	13	17	15½	18	22
Pilkngtn	140	16½	18½	21½	1½	4	5
(*152½)	160	5	7½	11	10	13	14½
Prudential	300	13	19½	23	12½	16½	20
(*305)	330	2½	8½	12	35	36½	39
Redland	420	27	33	37	16	21½	26½
(*436½)	460	7½	15	20	43½	47½	51
R-Royce	140	17	20½	23	3½	5½	7½
(*154)	160	6	10½	13½	12	15½	17½
Tesco	240	15½	17	20½	8½	11	13½
(*245)	260	4½	8½	11½	21	23	25
Vodafone	180	13	17½	22	7½	10½	12½
(*189½)	200	5	9	13½	19	21½	23½
Williams	300	30½	34½	37	5	8½	12½
(*325)	330	10½	17½	21	18½	22½	27

FT-SE INDEX (*3044½)

	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150
Calls						
Feb	144½	94½	44½			
Mar	154½	112	74	44	23	10½
Apr	167	130	98	69½	47½	31
May	186½	150	120½	92	70½	50½
Jun	195	—	130½	—	81	—
Puts						
Feb				6	56	106
Mar	10	18	30	50½	80	119½
Apr	27½	40½	58½	80	107½	141
May	39	52½	72½	94	122½	153
Jun	47	—	80½	—	129½	—

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	420	20	27	33½	7½	15½	21
(*436)	460	3	10½	16½	37	40½	44½
Amstrad	150	7	15	—	4½	10	—
(*153½)	175	0½	6	—	23	26	—
Barclays	600	18½	30½	43½	16½	28½	38
(*605)	650	2½	12½	24	57	62	69
Blue Circ	260	13	22	27	3½	13½	17½
(*269)	280	3½	12½	18	13½	25	29
Br Gas	300	12½	20	25	3	9½	13½
(*310)	330	0½	5½	11½	20½	28	31
Dixons	200	11	18½	22	3½	8	12½
(*207)	220	2½	8	12½	15	19	23½
Forte	220	16½	23	27	1	6½	9
(*235½)	240	6	12	16½	8	16	19
Hillsdwn	160	16	18½	20½	0½	4½	7½
(*175)	180	2½	6½	10	7½	15½	18
Lonrho	140	13½	19½	21½	1	3½	6
(*152)	160	2	8½	11½	9½	13	15½
Sears	100	3½	6	8	2½	6	6½
(*100½)	110	0½	2½	4	9½	12½	13
Thrn Eml	1000	49½	80	91½	4½	19	34
(*1041)	1050	16	48½	61	22½	36½	57
Tomkins	220	12	20½	24	2	7	12
(*229)	240	2½	10	14	12½	17	22½
TSB	220	19½	29½	32½	1½	7	10½
(*236)	240	7	17	22	8½	15½	19½
Wellcome	1000	49½	53½	67	20½	30	32
(*1030)	1050	24	28½	43	48½	55½	57

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo	600	54½	72½	81½	7	15	26½
(*641)	650	23½	43	52½	26	35½	49½
HSBC	650	37½	51	64	20½	42½	49
(*669)	700	14	29½	43½	59	72	78
Reuter	420	30½	41½	51	9	16	18½
(*442½)	460	9½	22	31½	29	37	38½

Series		Feb	May	Jul	Feb	May	Jul
Royal Ins.	280	15½	22	26½	13½	18½	24
(*285)	300	7½	13½	18	25½	30	35½

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Fisons	110	11½	17½	21	2½	7	8½
(*119)	130	6	12½	16	6½	11½	13½

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastern Gp	700	64	77½	86	15½	29½	36
(*738½)	750	35	49	59	36	54	60

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	19	34	36	3	15	20½
(*474)	500	2	14	18½	26½	38½	43
Scot Pwr	300	30½	40	44	0½	5	10
(*328½)	330	8½	20½	25½	8½	15½	22½

February 17, 1995 Tot: 47667 Call: 14376 Put: 33291 FT-SE Call: 4507 Put: 16693

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 71477	Mar 95	3052.0	3059.0	3033.0	3041.0	12068
	Jun 95	3057.0	3059.5	3048.5	3052.5	557
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4031	Mar 95	3435.0	3448.0	3435.0	3434.0	268
	Jun 95	3455.0	3466.0	3455.0	3460.0	250
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 456419	Mar 95	93.06	93.07	93.04	93.05	8043
	Jun 95	92.31	92.32	92.27	92.31	14506
	Sep 95	91.84	91.86	91.81	91.86	5069
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 2437	Mar 95				93.66	0
	Jun 95				93.17	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 780659	Mar 95	94.86	94.87	94.85	94.86	11115
	Jun 95	94.52	94.53	94.49	94.52	18734
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 95912	Mar 95	101-19	101-23	101-09	101-19	36594
	Jun 95	101-19	101-23	101-16	101-22	398
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	109.20	109.25	109.15	109.16	995
	Jun 95	108.41	108.52	108.41	108.43	2912
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 229566	Mar 95	90.69	90.72	90.48	90.68	98473
	Jun 95	90.14	90.20	90.00	90.19	5303
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 25011	Mar 95	93.81	93.81	93.74	93.76	1429
	Jun 95	93.25	93.27	93.24	93.28	1038
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 40691	Mar 95	95.96	95.99	95.95	95.98	1621
	Jun 95	95.64	95.66	95.61	95.64	702
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 56341	Mar 95	99.47	100.04	99.11	100.00	49159
	Jun 95	98.22	98.96	98.22	98.96	913

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 5½ Week fixed: 6½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⁷⁄₃₂	6⅝-6½	6¾-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⁹⁄₁₆-6⁷⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⁹⁄₁₆	6²⁹⁄₃₂-6²⁵⁄₃₂	7⁹⁄₃₂-7⁵⁄₃₂	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⁹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6⁹⁄₁₆-6⁷⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6½	6²⁹⁄₃₂-6²⁵⁄₃₂	7⁵⁄₁₆-7³⁄₁₆	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7½

Overnight: open 5½, close 7½

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6½	n/a	6¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅛	7½
Sterling CDs:	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6²⁵⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅛-6¹⁵⁄₁₆	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7½
Dollar CDs:	6.05-6.02	n/a	6.17-6.14	6.41-6.38	6.95-6.92
Building Society CDs:	6½-6⁷⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6²⁹⁄₃₂-6²⁵⁄₃₂	7⅛-7	7⅝-7⁹⁄₁₆

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £3,299m allotted: £700m: Bids: £98.46% received: 6%: Last week: £98.465% received: 100%: Avge rate: £6.1553% last wk £6.1694%; Next week: £700m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6	6½-6¼	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	5-4⅞	5-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅜-5¼	5⅛-4⅞
French Franc:	5⁹⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₁₆	5⅝-5½	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6	6-5
Swiss Franc:	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4⅛-4	4½-3½
Yen:	2⅛-2	2⅛-2	2⅛-2¹⁄₁₆	2⅛-2¹⁄₁₆	2½-1½

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $376.80-377.20 Close: $378.00-378.50 High: $378.80-379.30
Low: $375.90-376.40 AM: $376.55 PM: $378.25

Krugerrand: $378.50-380.50 (£240.00-242.00)

Platinum: $415.25 (£263.00) **Silver:** $4.79 (£3.025) **Palladium:** $157.25 (£99.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6230-2.6342	2.6268-2.6302	⅜-¼pr	1⅛-⅞pr
Brussels	48.13-48.39	48.20-48.30	7-3pr	19-13pr
Copenhagen	9.2240-9.2770	9.2620-9.2770	⅜-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅛pr
Dublin	1.0040-1.0070	1.0042-1.0069	9-6pr	19-14pr
Frankfurt	2.3407-2.3517	2.3451-2.3482	⅜-¼pr	1-⅞pr
Lisbon	242.16-243.55	242.59-243.23	46-55ds	187-200ds
Madrid	203.69-205.09	204.14-204.44	27-35ds	97-110ds
Milan	2528.20-2548.80	2534.50-2537.80	3-5ds	13-16ds
Montreal	2.2139-2.2441	2.2139-2.2170	0.29-0.38ds	0.65-0.79ds
New York	1.5756-1.5870	1.5758-1.5768	0.07-0.05pr	0.20-0.18pr
Oslo	10.2730-10.3210	10.2910-10.3060	1⅛-⅞pr	4-2⅞pr
Paris	8.1400-8.1760	8.1500-8.1640	⅜-⅛pr	1⅝-1⅛pr
Stockholm	11.5470-11.6570	11.5670-11.5910	⅜-1⅛ds	3⅛-4⅛ds
Tokyo	153.35-154.56	153.53-153.79	⅝-⅜pr	1⅝-1⅜pr
Vienna	16.46-16.54	16.48-16.51	2⅛-1⅛pr	7⅛-6⅛pr
Zurich	1.9767-1.9859	1.9829-1.9859	⅜-⅛pr	1⅝-1⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3548-1.3557
Austria	10.44-10.45
Belgium (Com)	30.58-30.61
Canada	1.4098-1.4103
Denmark	5.8687-5.8707
France	5.1668-5.1678
Germany	1.4860-1.4865
Hong Kong	7.7298-7.7308
Ireland	1.5640-1.5655
Italy	1607.00-1607.90
Japan	97.43-97.53
Malaysia	2.5535-2.5545
Netherlands	1.6661-1.6666
Norway	6.5305-6.5325
Portugal	153.79-153.89
Singapore	1.4528-1.4533
Spain	129.57-129.67
Sweden	7.3387-7.3387
Switzerland	1.2545-1.2555

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5799-1.5825
Australia dollar	2.1356-2.1384
Bahrain dinar	0.592-0.604
Brazil real*	1.3350-1.3391
Cyprus pound	0.7225-0.7325
Finland markka	7.255-7.371
Greece drachma	365.5-372.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.1865-12.1950
India rupee	49.29-50.25
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4685-0.4785
Malaysia ringgit	4.0251-4.0293
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.5016-2.5060
Pakistan rupee	48.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.890-6.016
Singapore dollar	2.2909-2.2932
S Africa rand (fin)	6.1203-6.1558
S Africa rand (com)	5.5855-5.5915
U A E dirham	5.765-5.889

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	175	Legal & Gn	430
ASDA Gp	4,500	Lloyds Bk	4,700
Abbey Natl	1,000	MEPC	449
Allied Dom	2,600	Marks Spr	3,700
Argyll Gp	3,700	NatWst Bk	2,700
Arjo Wiggn	1,200	Nat Power	4,500
AB Foods	200	Nth Wst W	2,300
BAA	2,500	P & O	2,000
BAT Inds	6,900	Pearson	418
BOC	685	PowerGen	3,300
BP	6,200	Prudential	1,300
BTR	2,400	RMC	93
BT	6,800	RTZ	2,900
Bk of Scot	599	Rank Org	3,100
Barclays	1,800	Reckitt Col	368
Bass	595	Redland	710
Blue Circle	3,100	Reed Intl	250
Boots	1,300	Rentokil	1,000
Bowater	961	Reuters	7,800
Brit Aero	1,500	Rolls Royce	1,700
Brit Airwys	2,700	Ryl Ins	556
Brit Gas	9,100	Ryl Bk Scot	1,900
Brit Steel	2,500	Sainsbury	812
Burmah Cast	1,100	Schroders	10
Cable Wire	2,300	Scot & New	818
Cadbury	3,000	Scot Power	810
Caradon	1,300	Sears	661
Carlton Cms	587	Svrn Trent	538
Cm Union	1,400	Shell Trans	1,700
Courtaulds	643	Slebe	1,400
De La Rue	472	SmKl Bch	2,100
Eastern Elec	985	Smith Nph	540
Enterpr Oil	699	Sthrn Elec	842
Forte	597	Std Chartd	521
GKN	1,500	Sun Allnce	2,200
GRE	1,400	TI Gp	140
GUS	417	TSB	2,000
Gen Acc	1,700	Tesco	1,500
Gen Elec	3,000	Thames W	2,100
Glaxo	5,800	Thrn EMI	430
Granada	1,000	Tomkins	2,800
Grand Met	2,300	Unilever	1,200
Guinness	693	Utd Bisc	1,400
HSBC	1,100	Vodafone	15,000
Hanson	10,000	Warburg (SG)	484
ICI	1,100	Wellcome	3,300
Inchcape	614	Whitbread	604
Kingfisher	844	Wllms Hld	2,800
Ladbroke	2,000	Wolseley	3,900
Land Secs	941	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Feb 17 midday	Feb 16 close
AMP Inc	74¼	74¼
AMR Corp	58½	58½
AT & T	51	51¼
Abbott Labs	34¼	34¼
Advanced Micro	30½	31
Aetna Life	52½	52
Ahmanson (HF)	17¼	17½
Air Prod & Chem	47½	47½
Albertson's	30¼	30½
Alcan Alumnm	24½	25
Alco Standard	66½	66½
Allied Signal	38	38½
Alum Co of Am	81¼	83
Amax Gold Inc	4½	4½
Amerada Hess	47½	47½
Amer Brands	37½	37½
Amer El Power	34½	34½
Amer Express	33½	32½
Amer Genl Corp	31½	31½
Amer Home Pr	71½	69½
Amer Intl	104½	104½
Amer Stores	25½	26
Ameritech	43	43½
Amoco	59	58½
Anheuser-Busch	54½	54½
Apple Computer	42½	43¼
Archer Daniels	19¼	19½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrng Wrld	46½	47
Asarco	28½	28½
Ashland Oil	32½	32½
Atl Richfield	107½	107½
Auto Data Pro	61½	61½
Avery Dennison	37½	38
Avon Products	57½	57½
Baker Hughes	18½	18½
Baltim Gas & El	24½	24½
Banc One	28½	28½
BankAmerica	47½	47½
Bank of NY	32½	32½
Bankers Tr NY	62½	62½
Barnett Banks	43½	43½
Bausch & Lomb	33½	33½
Baxter Intl	30½	31
Becton Dicknsn	51½	51½
Bell Atlantic	53½	53½
BellSouth	58½	58½
Black & Decker	25	25
Block (H&R)	36	36½
Boeing	46	46½
Boise Cascade	29½	30½
Borden Inc	12½	12½
Bristol Myrs Sq	61½	61
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	20	20½
Burlington Nthn	55½	55½
CBS	61½	61½
CNA Financial	71½	71½
CPC Intl	53½	53½
CSX	76½	77
Campbell Soup	44½	44½
Can Pacific	14	14
Cptl Cities ABC	84½	85½
Carolina Pwr	27½	27½
Caterpillar	52½	53½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	41½	42½
Chase Manhat	34½	34½
Chemical Bk	39½	39½
Chevron Corp	47½	46½
Chrysler	45½	46½
Chubb Corp	79½	79½
Cigna Corp	75½	75
Citicorp	42½	42½
Clorox	59½	59½
Coastal Corp	29½	29½
Coca Cola	53½	54
Colgate-Palmolive	62½	62½
Columbia Gas	25½	25½
Compaq Comp	36½	37½
Comp Ass Intl	55½	55½
Conagra	32½	32½
Conrail	57½	57½
Cons Edison	27½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	36½	36½
Cooper Inds	39½	39½
Corning Inc	31½	31½
Crown Cork	42½	42
Dana Corp	23½	23½
Dayton Hudson	73½	73
Deere	76	76½
Delta Air Lines	55½	56
Deluxe Corp	26½	26½
Detroit Edison	29½	29½
Digital Equip	35½	35½
Dillard Dept St	27½	27½
Disney (Walt)	53½	53½
Dominion Res	38½	38½
Donelley (RR)	34½	34
Dover Corp	60½	60½
Dow Chemical	64½	65½
Dow Jones	35½	35½
Dresser	20½	20
Duke Power	39½	39
Dun & Brdstreet	51½	50½
Du Pont	55½	56
Eastman Kodak	50½	51
Eaton Corp	47½	47
Emerson Elec	65½	65½
Engelhard Corp	26½	26½
Enron Corp	31½	31½
Entergy	22½	22½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	63½	64
FMC Corp	58½	59
FPL Group	36	36½
Federal Express	62½	62½
Fed Nat Mtge	70½	70½
First Chicago	49½	49½
First Interstate	80½	80½
First Union Rlty	8½	8½
Fleet Finl Grp	33½	33½
Fluor Corp	48½	48½
Ford Motor	26½	26½
GTE Corp	32½	32½
Gannett	52½	53½
Gap Inc Del	33½	33½
Gen Dynamics	44½	44½
Gen Electric	54	54½
Gen Mills	59½	60
Gen Motors	41½	41½
Gen Reinsurance	129½	129½
Gen Signal	35½	36
Genuine Parts	39½	39½
Georgia Pac	76	76½
Gillette	77½	77½
Glaxo ADR	20½	20½
Goodrich (BF)	44½	44½
Goodyear Tire	35½	36½
Grace (W&R)	44½	44½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	19½	20½
Great Wstn Fin	18½	18½
Halliburton	35½	35½
Harcourt General	35	35
Heinz (HJ)	39½	39½
Hercules	44	43½
Hershey Foods	49½	49½
Hewlett Packard	115½	115½
Hilton Hotels	68½	68½
Home Depot	46	46½
Homestake Mng	15½	15½
Honeywell	35½	36
Household Intl	41	41½
Houston Inds	38½	39
Humana	23½	23½
ITT Corp	97½	97½
Illinois Tool	43½	43½
Illinova	23½	23½
INCO	27½	27½
Ingersoll Rand	31½	31½
Inland Steel	29½	29½
Intel Corp	79½	79½
IBM	75½	75½
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48½
Intl Paper	77½	77½
James River Va	24½	24½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57	56½
Kellogg	54½	55
Kerr-McGee	48½	49½
Kimberly-Clark	50½	51
Kmart	14½	14½
Knight-Ridder	52½	52½
Lilly (Eli)	64½	64½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
LIN Brdcstng	129½	130½
Lincoln Nat	39½	39½
Litton	37½	37½
Liz Claiborne	16½	16½
Lockheed	74½	75½
Louisiana Pac	29½	29½
MCI Comm	19½	19½
Marriott Int	31½	31½
Marsh & McLnn	82½	81½
Masco Corp	26	26
May Dept St	37	37½
Maytag Corp	16½	16½
McDonalds	32½	33½
McDonnell D	55½	54½
McGraw Hill	69½	70
Mead Corp	54½	54½
Medtronic	55½	56
Mellon Bk	38½	37½
Melville Corp	32½	32½
Merck Inc	41	40½
Merrill Lynch	39½	40½
Minnesota Mine	53½	53½
Mobil Corp	87	86½
Monsanto	76½	76½
Morgan (JP)	62½	62½
Motorola Inc	58	64½
Natl Medical	15	15½
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	26½	26½
Navistar Int	16½	16½
NBD Bancorp	31½	31½
NY Times A	21½	21½
Newmont Mng	35½	34½
Niag Mohawk	14½	14½
Nike B	69½	70
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	5½	5½
Nordstrom	44½	44½
Norfolk Sthrn	64½	65
Nthn State Pwr	45½	45½
Norwest Corp	24½	24½
Nynex Corp	38½	38½
Occidental Pet	19½	19½
Ohio Edison	20½	21
Oracle Systems	45½	46½
Oryx Energy Co	11½	11½
Owens Corning	34½	34½
PPG Industries	37½	37½
PNC Bank	25½	25½
Paccar Inc	43	43
Pacificorp	18½	18½
Pac Enterprises	24½	24½
Pac Gas & Elect	25½	25½
Pac Telesis	30	30½
Pall Corp	19½	19½
Panhandle East	21½	22½
Parker Hannifin	48	48½
Peco Energy	26½	26½
Penney (JC)	43	43½
Pennzoil	46½	46½
Pepsico	38½	38½
Pfizer	81½	80½
Phelps Dodge	56½	56½
Philip Morris	61½	61½
Phillips Pet	32½	33
Pitney Bowes	34	34½
Polaroid	30	30
PriceCostco	13½	13½
Procter & Gmbl	65½	65½
Providian	34½	34½
Pub Serv E & G	28½	29
Quaker Oats	32½	33½
Ralston Purina	46½	46½
Raychem Corp	39½	39½
Raytheon	68½	68½
Reebok Intl	35	35
Reynolds Metals	52½	53½
Roadway Srvcs	50½	50½
Rockwell Intl	38½	38½
Rohm & Haas	56½	56½
Royal Dutch	114½	114½
Rubbermaid	31½	31½
Safeco Corp	54½	54½
St Paul's Cos	48½	48½
Salomon Inc	35½	35½
Santa Fe Pac	21	20½
Sara Lee Corp	26	25½
Scecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	77½	77
Schlumberger	56½	59½
Scott Paper	77½	77½
Seagram	29½	30½
Sears Roebuck	47½	47½
Shell Trans	68½	68½
Sherwin Wllms	33½	33½
Skyline Corp	18½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	34½	33½
Southern Co	20½	20½
Sthwestern Bell	41½	42
Sprint Corp	29½	29½
Stanley Works	40½	40½
Sun Company	29½	29½
Sun Microsys	33½	34½
Suntrust	53½	53½
Supervalu	25	24½
Sysco Corp	27½	27½
TRW Inc	64½	64
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	17½	17½
Tandy Corp	45½	46
Teledyne	23	23½
Temple Inland	49½	49½
Tenneco	45	45½
Texaco	62	61½
Texas Inst	78½	80½
Texas Utilities	32½	32½
Textron	53½	53½
Time Warner	38½	38½
Times-Mirror A	19½	19½
Timken	33½	33½
Torchmark	42½	41½
Toys R Us	29½	29½
Transamerica	55	55
Travelers	38½	38½
Tribune	54½	54½
Tyco Labs	49½	48½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	96½	95½
USX Marathon	16	16
Unicom	25½	25½
Unilever NV	119½	119½
Union Camp	51½	51½
Union Carbide	28½	28
Union Pacific	52½	52½
Unisys Corp	9½	9½
USAIR Group	5½	5½
USF&G Corp	14½	14½
US Life	37½	37½
US West	39	38½
United Tech	66	66½
Unocal Corp	27½	27½
Upjohn	34	33½
VF Corp	51½	50½
WMX Tech	26½	26½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	24
Warner-Lambert	77½	77½
Wells Fargo	157½	158½
Westinghouse El	14½	14½
Weyerhaeuser	41	41½
Whirlpool	53½	53½
Whitman	17½	17½
Winn Dixie	54½	54½
Woolworth	15½	15½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44½	44½
Xerox	109½	109
Yellow Corp	20½	20½

هكذا من الإنجليز

BRITISH GAS 33
Now a muddle over direct debits

WEEKEND MONEY

ON LINE 36
Will Branson bring lower premiums?

How foreign taxmen view matrimony

Other countries' tax systems treat marriage more kindly than the Inland Revenue, **Liz Dolan** finds

The forces of Mammon were summoned this week by, of all people, the Archbishop of York in a bid to encourage more people into the marital fold. In a Valentine's Day address on BBC Wales, John Habgood urged the Government to improve tax incentives for married couples, maintaining that those who marry, rather than simply live together, were more prepared for a life of "selfless commitment", with concomitant benefits for their children and, thence, society as a whole.

Whether or not bribing people to marry is a particularly effective way of boosting spiritual values, Dr Habgood is correct in his contention that our Government has, for the past few years, been busily dismantling the financial advantages of the married state.

As our at-a-glance analysis indicates, Britain is following a pattern established by many other countries by moving towards the equalisation of benefits to married and single taxpayers. But, child benefits tend to be more generous abroad, and many countries still offer incentives to dependant spouses who stay at home to care for the children.

Lynne Berry, director of the Family Welfare Association, says: " This [Dr Habgood's call] is an attempt to find a way of supporting families, but it's not the most effective way. Poverty is the real problem, and tax relief would not make a big difference to that."

Lisa Harker, of the Child Poverty Action Group, says: "Marriage is irrelevant." Family patterns have changed quite drastically over the past decade, she says but, while the social security system has promoted traditional families, poverty is associated with non-traditional families.

United Kingdom: Until April 1994, taxpayers enjoyed marriage tax relief at 40 per cent of their income and basic rate taxpayers on 25 per cent. Consequently, the wealthier you were, the more you gained from marriage.

On April 6 last year, the married couple's allowance was cut to 20 per cent of the first £1720 for everyone, whatever their income level. This had the effect of halving the value of the allowance to a higher rate taxpayer from £688 to £344. For a basic rate taxpayer, it fell by one fifth to the same amount. This year, the allowance slips to 15 per cent, worth £258.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, senior tax consultant at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, says:."A lot of people were predicting last year that the writing was on the wall for the married couple's allowance, but I think further cuts are unlikely — at least for the time being."

Everyone has a single person's allowance on the first £3,445 of income. Single parents bringing up a child receive an additional allowance of £1,720, the same rate as the married couples' allowance. Tax relief for parents was abolished in the mid-1970s in favour of child benefit — which was promptly frozen by the Conservatives for several years in the 1980s. A Labour think-tank has now proposed taxing child benefit paid to higher rate taxpayers.

> ‘Incentives to stay-at-home spouses are still offered by many countries’

Sweden: Swedes are taxed individually on a national and regional basis. The basic rate is 20 per cent national income tax and 31 per cent municipal income tax. There is no special allowance for married couples, but a new conservative mood is encouraging a revival in the custom. Couples, whether married or not, can cut their tax bills by dividing their earnings between them. This can enable the higher earner to stay below the next tax band.

Andres Clason, Councillor for Cultural and Educational Affairs at the Swedish Embassy, says:."There is also a movement towards more christenings, and bourgeois values." Swedish wives no longer qualify for pensions through their husbands, but are paid them in their own right. There is a child allowance of about £50 a month per child. A mother is guaranteed 100 per cent income a year after the child is born, even if she is not married. This is going to be cut to 75 per cent. A £1,000 allowance for married couples to furnish their first flat was abolished 15 years ago.

Germany: German taxes are high, but the system encourages the family. Single people do not have to earn very much more than average to start paying tax at 39 per cent. As in France, married couples are better off at the same income level if only one person works rather than if both partners do so. This is an obvious encouragement for mothers to stay at home.

Spouses can elect for separate assesment. If assessed jointly, they pay tax at the top rate of 53 per cent when taxable income reaches DM2400.84 (£1,043) a year. A single person reaches that level an annual salary of DM1200.42. Joint assessment is beneficial if one partner earns more than the other. The standard (personal) allowance is DM108 or DM216 for a married couple opting for joint assessment. The allowance for dependent children is DM2,052 or DM4,014 and the the single parent exemption rate is DM5,616.

Italy: Stay-at-home spouses get favourable treatment. A tax credit of 757,000 lire (£306) is granted to the dependant spouse provided he or she does not earn more than 5.1 million lire. The tax system in Italy favours the low paid. Husband and wife are taxed separately. Parents get an allowance of 87,500 lire per child.

Australia: Dependant spouses get a tax credit worth A$1,118 (£548), which is gradually reduced if they get a job — by 25 per cent after the first A$282 of income, down to nil once they earn more than A$4,000.

Spain: The Spanish may opt to be taxed separately, or to file joint tax returns for households. There are more favourable tax rates this way. If they choose the former, they start paying after the first 400,000 pesatas (£2030) and, with the latter, after the first 800,000, which has obvious advantages for non-working spouses. The bands are also wider for joint returns and there is a system of family credit for children. Families get an allowance of 25,200 pesetas for each member of the household. The system favours those on low incomes.

United States: There is an advantage to being married for those who opt for a joint declaration. Single people and spouses taxed separately get two allowances, one of $3,700 and the other of $2,350. Married couples assessed jointly get one of $6,200 (£4,052), plus two of $2,350. So, wives who do not want their husbands to know about their financial affairs pay more tax.

Canada: Married couples get a tax credit of C$915 (£425) for the dependant spouse. This is reduced by 17 cents for ever dollar earned over C$538.

Additional research by Morag Preston

PARAMOUNT

France. Germany, Sweden? Where should the Addams family take their household for the best tax deal

The more children, the merrier

The French are still very keen to encourage couples to bear the French citizens of the future, and the tax system is structured accordingly. A family with more than two children can substantially benefit.

Tax relief is given to families by means of a highly complex income splitting, or "unit", system, rather than by personal deductions or allowances.

Each family group is assigned a number of units, depending on family size and the status of its member. A single adult is worth one unit, a married couple, two units, a married couple, with one child, 2.5 units, and a married couple, with two children, three units. Each subsequent child is worth one additional unit. Consequently, families of five, or more, pay less tax, pro-rata, than those with one or two children.

Then the family's total income is split into a number of units. Tax is calculated for each subdivision, after which all sub-division's taxes are added to produce the family's total tax liability.

The more units into which the family's total income is divided, the lower the tax charge.

This system means the effective rate of tax on a family is lower than on a single individual earning the same amount as the family.

A married couple, where one earns £50,000 and the dependant spouse earns nothing, can split the working partner's income in half for tax purposes. The tax rate is progressive up to 58.6 per cent.

Single people with children may divide their income by two, with each child allocated units in the same way as those of a married couple.

Two people who are both working and both earning the same salaries get no real benefit unless they have children. It is a great advantage to have one significant earner.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Don't miss the good news

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

The headlines have been living up to all the warnings given in this column since the beginning of the year. At home: sterling weak, inflation up, retail sales down, nurses and teachers in revolt, interest rate warnings and a Government in what looks like terminal decline. Abroad: the Mexican crisis lurches on, threatening other emerging economies; trade wars are rumbling, and Tokyo is suffering renewed earthquake shock.

Those who have followed the cautious strategy recommended here, leaning towards liquidity and short bonds, are probably feeling pretty smug. And yet . . .

Perhaps what we need is Martyn Lewis — remember his campaign for more good news? — to edit the business pages. Some of the news really is bad; some, as Anatole Kaletsky pointed out on Wednesday, falls into the Mark Twain obituary class: greatly exaggerated. There is no sterling crisis: just a strong mark and a bit of selling from the Far East, where they don't understand British posturing, and seriously believe that we might be about to leave the European Union. The rise in inflation and fall in sales are mainly seasonal adjustment trouble.

If growth is indeed slowing to a more sustainable rate, that is a soft landing — good news, as Wall Street has already recognised. It takes pressure off capacity contraints and commodity prices, already retreating. The chances are growing that US interest rates are getting near their peak; and where the Federal Reserve Board leads, the Bank of England may well be relieved to follow. And that is just what you might call the negative good news. What hardly gets mentioned is the solidly positive news, especially of profits. The estimates that are coming out in America are startling: despite the competitive pressures which have caused lower than expected inflation, earnings may be up more than 40 per cent, far more than even the most optimistic forecasts.

The fact is that we are only now starting to get the measure of the leaner-and-fitter syndrome, the transformation which industry both there and in this country has achieved under the pressure of recession and over-valued exchange rates.

Lean production, rationalisation and down-sizing have so far appeared mainly as pain; we are only now getting the measure of what they can deliver in favourable conditions of rising demand and realistic exchange values. Inflation is low because unit costs are actually falling; and worries about lack of capacity seem equally overdone. Leaner, fitter firms can squeeze out far more than was estimated on historic trends. Investment inadequate? Not so far, to judge from output. It is just that employers are readier to use more labour than more capital; hardly bad news.

Does all this mean that you should immediately plunge in and fill your boots with equities? It does not. Never forget that the big bull market happened when the news could hardly have been worse. This was not because investment professionals have perfect foresight: it was the asset price inflation which is the normal first result of an effort to revive growth through easier monetary policy. Equally, the recent setback is mainly the result of tighter monetary policy, and the latest Wall Street spurt due mainly to the hope that the tightening may be over. Short-term market movements have much more to do with monetary conditions than they have with the economic news.

What the good news does mean, though, is that current equity values are far more solidly based than they looked; the risk is fading. The surest sign is that despite all the headlines, the London market has moved broadly sideways rather than down. So it looks time to start deploying that prudent liquidity cushion you have built up. Not in a rush: conditions are still tight, and news still mixed. But as judiciously as you built it up.

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Landlords would like to be accommodated

After 80 years of rent control, landlords want changes, says

Sara McConnell

THE ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

A tenant's lot is not a happy one, but landlords think that it is

Eighty years after Lloyd George introduced rent control in 1915 as a temporary measure to stem rent rises, private landlords are still seething at what they call "the worst, long-term, still continuing injustice in Britain". They claim they have lost £300 billion, at today's prices, over the past 80 years through rent controls imposed by successive governments.

They maintain that the rents they were permitted to charge did not cover the cost of repairs, insurance and administration and that the rules that allowed tenants with controlled rents indefinite security of tenure have also choked off profits.

Organisations and MPs concerned about tenants' rights are calling for tighter control of landlords, including a system of licensing to weed out the unscrupulous landlords, who, they say, harass tenants and fail to maintain their properties to safe standards, causing hundreds of injuries and deaths a year.

The Small Landlords' Association is planning to use the eightieth anniversary of rent control to press for a further loosening of what it concedes is already a deregulated rental market in the wake of legislation brought in six years ago.

Geoffrey Cutting, chairman of the SLA, says: "The SLA will be using the eightieth anniversary year to reinforce its message that onerous control is not only unjust but counter-productive — if we had a bigger private rented sector it would have attenuated the recent owner occupation boom and bust."

Most tenants who started renting from private landlords since the beginning of 1989 do not have controlled rents or security of tenure (see box).

Mr Cutting says that £10 billion worth of property is still let on regulated tenancies.

This year, the SLA will be attempting:

☐ To show that landlords will provide decent accommodation if they are given "reasonable terms".

☐ To press for best use of existing housing stock rather than imposing controls that are likely to leave it empty.

☐ To campaign for "realistic" fair rents for regulated tenancies.

☐ To simplify tenancy agreements signed for new lets.

Housing bodies argue, however, that the existing system of assured shorthold tenancies actually benefits the landlord more than the tenant.

Shelter, the housing charity, says: "New tenancies under the Housing Act 1988 are weighted in favour of the landlord. Landlords can charge market rates and there is no effective rent control."

There is also widespread concern on both sides of the political divide that many houses let by private landlords are badly maintained, with defective gas heaters and no fire escapes. Nick Raynsford, Shadow Housing Minister, says one in three of all fatal domestic fires occur in properties in multiple occupation. The Government is considering requiring all landlords in certain types of property in multiple occupation to be registered with their local authorities. Labour, which will publish a detailed statement of its housing policy later on this summer, wants a system of registration for certain types of rented property.

The SLA rejects claims of poor maintenance and tenant harassment as false.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

■ If you first moved into your home before January 15, 1989, and your landlord does not live in the same house as you, you will probably be a *protected tenant* under a *regulated tenancy*. You and your landlord both have the right to apply to a rent officer to decide a fair rent, which once decided, is the maximum that can legally be charged for at least three years until the rent is reviewed again. Your landlord can only turn you out if he gets a court order, which he could only get if you had not paid your rent, wilfully damaged the property or used it for "immoral purposes".

■ You can continue to be a protected tenant after January 15 1989 if you transfer from one property to another, both owned by the same landlord. Otherwise, if you move into a home owned by another landlord, you will get an *assured tenancy*, or an *assured shorthold tenancy* if your landlord does not live with you and it is your main home (not a holiday let for example).

■ An assured tenancy gives you more protection as a tenant than an assured shorthold tenancy. You can agree a fixed term, or rent for an indefinite period. At the end of a fixed term, if your landlord does not agree to another fixed term or an indefinite period, you can automatically stay for an indefinite period.

■ An assured shorthold tenancy is for a fixed period of at least six months. Your landlord must tell you before you start that you have a shorthold. He must give you two months' notice to end your tenancy, although if you owe rent or the landlord wants the property back for specific reasons, he can give you just two weeks' notice.

LANDLORD RIGHTS

■ If you have a tenant with a protected tenancy, you cannot repossess your property except by going to court with specific grounds (see 'Tenants' Rights). You have the right to apply to the rent officer to decide a fair rent.

■ If your tenant has a fixed term assured tenancy, you can raise rents at periodic intervals, agreed beforehand with your tenant. Alternatively, you can propose a rent increase, giving a certain amount of notice depending on the term of the tenancy.

■ You can get your property back from a tenant on an assured tenancy by serving notice that you want your property back. You have to use a special form and say what grounds for possession (laid out in the regulations) you are using.

■ Getting your property back through an assured shorthold tenancy is much easier, which is why these tenancies are best for you. You have a guaranteed right to repossess your property after the end of the tenancy.

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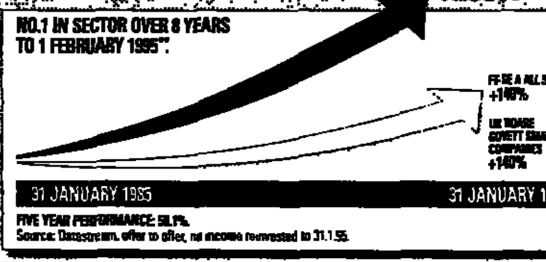

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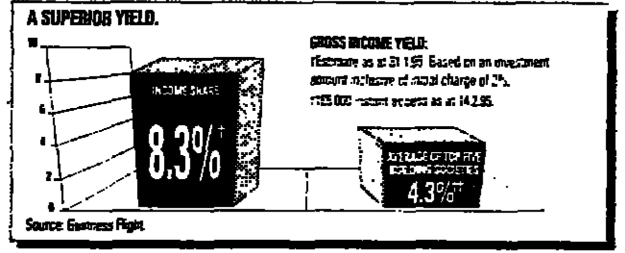
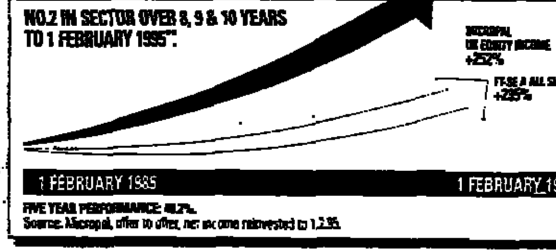


INCOME & GROWTH: GUINNESS FLIGHT HIGH INCOME TRUST* +339%

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT:
Top quartile in sector over 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 years**.

Investing principally in higher-yielding blue chip UK companies, through Guinness Flight High Income Trust, for income and long term capital growth.



*A UK authorised unit trust

PRICED FOR VALUE

The PEP initial charge is only 2%, with no withdrawal charges after 3 years~.

To find out more, please fill in the coupon, call our Investor Services Department on 0171-522 2111 or contact your financial adviser.

Investor Services Department, Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE. Tel: 0171-522 2111. Fax: 0171-522 3001. Please send me details of Guinness Flight's PEP Choice.

Title ____ Surname ____ Initials ____

Address ____

____

Postcode ____

GUINNESS FLIGHT
UNIT TRUST PEPS

**Source: Micropal. Offer to offer, net income reinvested to 1.2.95. ††Unlike a building society deposit, the capital value of this investment is not guaranteed. Furthermore, income from income shares may be paid out of capital although it is the Manager's intention to avoid this. ~The following withdrawal charges are also applied: 2% in first year, 2% in second year and 1% in third year, thereafter free of charge. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of these investments and the income arising from them may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, a member of IMRO 2496-95

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Homeowners looking to get a better deal by remortgaging could be caught by the Government's plans to curb income support on mortgage interest.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, confirmed in a memorandum to the Social Security Advisory Committee this week that borrowers who remortgage after October 2 will count as new borrowers when the new rules take effect.

This will mean that if they lose their job or fall ill and cannot pay the mortgage, they will not get any help from the state for nine months. Under the present system, they would be able to claim half their mortgage interest for the first 16 weeks and the whole amount after that, if they qualified for income support.

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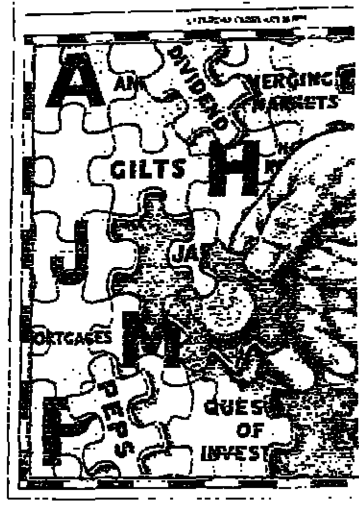

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• 3 Year Fixed

Base Rate tax will be deducted from any i
permitted within the agreed term of the dep

Sara McConnell looks into proposals to curb income support on new loans

Remortgaging risks increase

Ian Darby, marketing manager at John Charcol, makes it clear to people remortgaging that they cannot rely on the state

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The restrictions will be put in place just as many borrowers move to shield themselves from the effect of rising interest rates by remortgaging at a fixed rate. More than half the business of many brokers and lenders in the present dead housing market is from existing borrowers who want to remortgage rather than move.

According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, more than £3 billion was borrowed for remortgaging and further advances in December 1994 alone. The figure also includes repayments to reduce debt.

London and Country, the independent broker, calculates that someone with a £60,000 loan who fixes the rate for two years at 6.45 per cent will save about £1,500 over the two years, including the costs of remortgaging.

Mr Lilley has made it clear that borrowers will be expected to take out private insurance to cover mortgage payments if they lose their job or fall ill, but existing policies are expensive and restricted. Insurers say they will be designing new policies, but do not yet have enough detail about the Government's plans.

Ian Darby, marketing manager at John Charcol, said: "The changes are something that we bring up with people remortgaging. We obviously make it clear they cannot rely on the state. We haven't believed before that mortgage payment protection makes sense because of the state support available, but we believe there will be changes in the products".

Payments from insurance policies will not be counted by the Social Security Department when it assesses claims from income support. Mr Lilley made it clear that he expected policies to bridge the gap between claiming and receiving income support and also cover any gaps between the actual rate of interest a borrower is paying and a standard rate the Government is proposing to use to calculate how much the state will pay.

This standard rate is intended to reflect the current variable interest rate, but lenders and housing advisers warn that people trapped in a fixed mortgage at a higher rate or in a variable rate mortgage but unable to remortgage because of negative equity could be pushed into arrears even if they are getting state help because the whole payment will not be covered.

The Government admits there will be "significant losers" when using a standard rate of interest. An estimated 8 per cent of borrowers are paying interest of more than 10 per cent, well above the current variable rate of 8.35 per cent. They have either got fixed rates taken out when rates were higher, or they have other loans for repairs and improvements.

An estimated 2 per cent will be "significant gainers" when a standard rate is introduced, mainly because they have discounted first-time buyer loans lower than the standard rate.

A-Z of
Investment

In the money with The Times

A FOUR-WEEK series of the new *Times Money Guide* begins today with the A-Z of Investment.

The guide deals with everything from annuities to wine, from classic cars to National Savings, helping you to understand the complex jargon that is often intentionally used to keep the investor in a state of confusion.

We explain the complete panoply of investor regulation, that is designed to keep your money safe and to keep rogues from the financial services field. We also show you how to differentiate between a salesman and someone who can give you independent financial advice for a fee.

As the end of the tax year approaches, the next three guides, appearing over three weeks, will deal with personal equity plans (Peps), investment and unit trusts and tax and general financial planning.

Millions seek power shares

More than three million people have registered with share shops ahead of the £4 billion share issue in National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators.

The public offer closes at noon on Wednesday, March 1. Investors must subscribe for a minimum of £352 worth of shares. This is for 200 shares, 120 in National Power and 80 in PowerGen. The incentive being offered to retail investors is a discount of 10p on each share in both companies, representing a saving of £20 on the minimum investment.

Payment will be in three instalments, spread over 18 months. The first instalment prices the shares at 170p each in National Power and 185p each in PowerGen. The second instalment, which prices the shares at the same level as the first, is due on February 6, 1996. The price of the third instalment, which is payable on September 17, 1996, will not be announced until about March 6.

Final dividends on the shares for the financial year 1994-95 will be paid on the partly-paid shares.

As a reward for the 3.1 million people who registered with the share shops, there is either a discount of 25p a share on subsequent instalments, but only on the first 800 shares allocated, or, a one-for-15 share bonus, on the first 1,200 shares allocated. The offer is structured in two parts: a UK public offer targeted at UK retail investors, and two separate international tender offers, for shares in National Power and PowerGen, targeted at institutional investors in the UK and around the world.

The international offer's first instalment is 180p per National Power share and 195p per PowerGen share. At least 40 per cent of the shares have been set aside for UK private investors, but if there is a strong demand, the institutions could find their applications for shares scaled back.

MORAG PRESTON

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Societies put on the charm

Suddenly there are weird goings on at several leading building societies. The message has come down from high: be nice to the customers.

The suspicious-minded are linking this development to the publication next Friday of the Treasury building society review. This will force the societies to confront such awkward issues as the rights of second-named holders on accounts and the need to be more accountable to members, that is, their savers and borrowers.

The rumour is that the societies have successfully lobbied to reduce the impact of the accountability measures. But the new rules will still oblige them to pay a little more heed to customers' requests for information and representation.

Chief executives who have seen in the Cheltenham & Gloucester disenfranchised widows saga what pressure discontented investors with superior letter-writing skills can bring to bear are preparing themselves for assault by post.

Especially disposed to be charming are societies that would like to find a merger partner, or a cosy takeover. Both need the consent of members. The National & Provincial, a society still held to be interested in any reasonable approach from a rival or a bank, was the first this week to smarm up to customers with its Mutual Interests scheme. The project gives "practical effect to the concept of mutuality".

The 1.7 million members of the society at December 31 will, from April, enjoy a number of benefits, including discounts on personal loans and free mortgage valuations. But even the society's most devoted members will see that many of the concessions are readily available elsewhere. While pretending to give something away, the N&P is merely attempting to retain business in a highly competitive savings and mortgage market.

For example, anyone opening an N&P savings account will receive an extra 1 per cent interest for three months, but only if the opening balance in the account is maintained for 12 months. How generous.

Temporary free cover on certain insurance policies is also on offer, encouraging customers to arrange cover through the N&P and put the society in the way of some nice commission.

The initial charge on the society's Personal Equity Plan (Pep) is also discounted by 2 per cent. But those wishing to avoid the upfront fee on a Pep can use one of the execution-only firms which rebate to the customer up to 4 per cent of a 5 per cent fee. Aspiring investors should also note that N&P Peps do not appear on any of the best buy lists at the leading Pep analysis groups.

Also attempting to get on the best side of its members is the Bradford & Bingley, another building society not necessarily wedded to independence.

The B&B is guaranteeing with its Mortgage Loyalty Card that when its 350,000 existing borrowers move house they will get a better deal than new customers. However, the society fails to mention that if the members prefer to stay put and apply for one of the B&B's new fixed-rate deals, they will be turned down. Back to the charm school, I think.

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Robert Miller checks on the mood of the Hong Kong stock market in the wake of last year's tumble and January's jitters

Beyond the doom and gloom

Market sentiment may well be affected by political problems

On March 1, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary will unveil one of the last Budgets before the colony is handed back to China on July 1, 1997. The Budget is not expected to produce any big upsets but rather a "steady as she goes" signal to nervous investors and residents alike. But it is another important landmark in the countdown to hand-over day, and the importance that China attaches to it. There is already a symbolic clock ticking away in Tiananmen Square marking to the precise second how much time is left before Hong Kong again becomes part of China.

But Hong Kong watchers believe the doom and gloom scenario, which saw the stock market fall by nearly 35 per cent in sterling terms last year and a further 10 per cent in January, is overdone. That does not mean, however, that the market is about to regain the lost ground all at once.

January's jitters in the Far East's stock markets, and in particular Hong Kong, wiped £20 million off the value of TR Pacific investment trust's £140 million portfolio. Michael Watt, TR Pacific's manager, says the damage could have been much worse if he had not halved his weighting in Hong Kong in favour of a higher level of investment in South Korea and Taiwan. He explains: "We saw a huge rise in the Hong Kong stock market and property in general in 1993 and it was a clear case of overheating. China was also going through a similar phase." TR Pacific now has less than 10 per cent of its portfolio invested in Hong Kong.

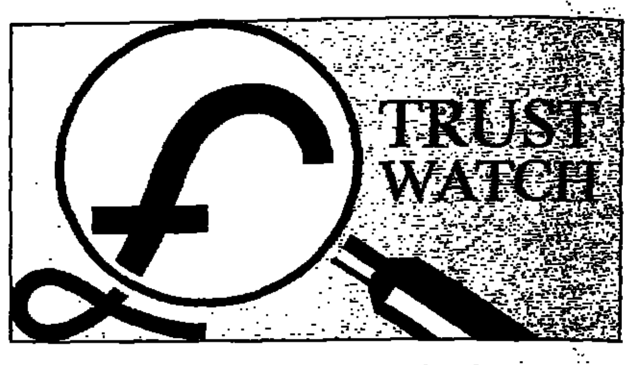
He believes that stock market sentiment in the colony is bound to be affected by the underlying political problems in Sino-British relations. China believes quite firmly that the reforms announced by Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, are in breach of the spirit of the Basic Law deal made with the Thatcher Government in the early 1980s. Mr Watt adds, however, that China is pragmatic enough to accept that a vibrant Hong Kong stock market and economy is vital to China's future prosperity.

Despite its dispute with Chris Patten, left, Peking takes a pragmatic view of the Hong Kong market

He says: "The companies which are listed on the Chinese stock exchanges tend to be less high quality than their Hong Kong counterparts. The "H" shares of Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong and New York are much better value and trading on markets with much more liquidity. Hong Kong is still the springboard for investors wanting to gain access to China." In terms of the benchmark indices that track the Pacific region, Hong Kong accounts for about 40 per cent. But the indices also include the Australian market. So unless you were looking for a high-risk exposure to Hong Kong by itself, you might be wiser to invest in one of the Pacific or South East Asian unit or investment trusts rather than a single market. As an added precaution, you could invest small sums on a monthly basis through a low-cost savings scheme.

Adaline Ko, a fund manager on Fleming's Pacific desk, says there are always political undertones in the region. She cites not only the poor relationship between the UK and Chinese governments but, also the imminently predicted death of Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader. But the overriding influence on the future prosperity of the Hong Kong market is US interest rates, Ms Ko says.

As the Hong Kong and US dollars are linked, the colony's rates have had to rise in line with the US. Now, however, she adds: "The outlook on US rates is that they have nearly peaked. The market itself has come down to a level that value has started to appear. That is not to say the market cannot fall further and there is still volatility. But it should start to pick up although there will be no straight-line rise."



TRUST WATCH

Hot on the heels of the Royal Bank of Scotland's re-entry into the unit trust market comes Abbey National. This week the building society turned bank threw its hat into the ring with the launch of a new personal equity plan linked to a UK growth trust.

The Abbey National Pep, which will be managed by a new unit trust subsidiary, requires a minimum investment of £1,000. Investors will be offered a 1 per cent discount on lump sums of between £2,000 and £3,999 and 2 per cent on £4,000 to £6,000. The initial charge is 5 per cent with an annual fee of 1.25 per cent.

To encourage investors to take a long-term view, Abbey National will give a 2 per cent "loyalty" bonus based on the amount invested after five years, provided no withdrawals have been made.

Charles Toner, managing director of Abbey National's retail division, says: "Other trust launches will follow shortly and they will possibly offer a more diversified geographic base. There will also be regular monthly savings schemes attached to the trusts." Another group to make full use of the Pep wrapping is Eagle Star's UK Smaller Companies trust. The offer period closes on February 28 and investments made before then qualify for a 1 per cent "enhancement". The minimum investment is £1,000 (£40 a month). The initial charge on Eagle Star's unit trust is 6 per cent, as is the annual management fee of 1.5 per cent.

The new High Reserve fund unit trust from Lloyds Bank will take advantage of the new corporate bond Pep rules which come into force sometime after the start of the new tax year in April. The trust's initial gross yield is estimated at 6.5 per cent and income will be paid quarterly. Minimum investment is £1,000.

There was a twist this week in the progress of the new Worldwide Pharmaceutical investment trust from Finsbury Asset Management. When Finsbury published the trust's pathfinder prospectus on Wednesday it emerged that the newcomer's sponsor, Rea Brothers, the merchant bank, had agreed in principle to buy Finsbury's four existing investment trusts with £185 million under management.

Details:
Abbey National: 0800 100888.
Eagle Star: 01242 577555.
Lloyds Bank: local branches

ROBERT MILLER

The information contained in this document, dated 16 February 1995, is in summary form and has been extracted from, and should be read in conjunction with, the listing particulars (the "Prospectus") dated 16 February 1995 relating to Albright & Wilson plc (the "Company") and its subsidiary undertakings (the "Group").
This document is issued in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). Listing particulars relating to the Company in accordance with the Listing Rules under Section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986 (the "FSA") have been published which alone contain full details of the Company and the Placing and Public Offer (the "Offer"). Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meaning when used in this document, unless the context requires otherwise. A copy of the Prospectus has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies in England and Wales in accordance with Section 149 of the FSA and copies are available at the addresses listed in the Prospectus until 2 March 1995. The London Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this document under Section 154 of the FSA without approving its contents. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued Ordinary Share capital of the Company to be admitted to the Official List. All dealings prior to receipt of share certificates and prior to Admission will be at the sole risk of the applicant(s). The application list for the Ordinary Shares being offered pursuant to the Offer will open at 3.00 pm on 24 February 1995 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

In applying for Ordinary Shares, you will be treated as applying solely on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions of the Offer set out therein. Before deciding to apply for Ordinary Shares, you are advised to read the Prospectus and, if you are in any doubt about the action you should take, to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the FSA.
Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited ("BZW") and Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited ("Lazard Brothers") are members of The Securities and Futures Authority Limited. In respect of the Offer, BZW, Lazard Brothers and de Zoete & Bevan Limited are acting for the Company, Tenneco Inc. and Tenneco United Kingdom Holdings Limited ("TUKHL") and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than the Company, Tenneco Inc. or TUKHL for providing the protections afforded to customers of BZW, Lazard Brothers and de Zoete & Bevan Limited nor for providing advice in relation to the Offer.
This document does not constitute or form part of any offer or invitation to sell, or the solicitation of any offer to buy, Ordinary Shares in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful and is not for distribution outside the United Kingdom, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Residents of countries outside the United Kingdom should refer to the restrictions and limitations set out in Part VII of the Prospectus. The Ordinary Shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "US Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold in the US except to persons reasonably believed to be "Qualified Institutional Buyers" within the meaning of Rule 144A under the US Securities Act.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON

ALBRIGHT & WILSON plc

(incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1967 with registered number 1134915)

Placing and Public Offer sponsored and underwritten by
Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited
and co-sponsored by
Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited

of 313,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 150p per share payable in full on application all of which are being placed and of which not less than 15,675,000 Ordinary Shares are being offered for sale

Availability of Prospectus and Mini Prospectus

Copies of the Prospectus and Mini Prospectus may be obtained from:

Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited
Ebbgate House
2 Swan Lane
London EC4R 3TS

Albright & Wilson plc
210-222 Hagley Road West
Oldbury
Warley
West Midlands B68 0NN

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
21 Moorfields
London EC2P 2HT

Lloyds Bank Plc
Lloyds Bank Registrars
Receiving Bank Services
Antholin House
71 Queen Street
London EC4N 1SL

and from the following branches of Lloyds Bank Plc:

4 Union Terrace
Aberdeen AB1 1NJ

125 Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 3AD

55 Corn Street
Bristol BS99 7LE

3 Sidney Street
Cambridge CB2 3HQ

27 High Street
Cardiff CF1 1QZ

113/115 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 4TF

12 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 6NY

6-7 Park Row
Leeds LS1 1NX

53 King Street
Manchester M60 2ES

102 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1SL

1/5 High Street
Carfax
Oxford OX1 4AA

Procedure for application

The following instructions should be read in conjunction with the Public Application Form set out opposite.

1 Insert in section 1 (in figures) the number of Ordinary Shares for which you are applying at 150p per share. Applications must be for a minimum of 200 Ordinary Shares and in one of the following multiples

Applications for:	In multiples of:
200 to 1,000 shares	100 shares
1,001 to 3,000 shares	500 shares
3,001 to 10,000 shares	1,000 shares
10,001 to 20,000 shares	2,000 shares
20,001 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,001 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

An application for any other number of Ordinary Shares may be rejected

2 Insert in section 2 (in figures) the amount of your cheque or banker's draft

The amount of your cheque or banker's draft should be the Offer Price of 150p per Ordinary Share multiplied by the number of Ordinary Shares inserted in section 1. For example:

Number of Ordinary Shares for which you are applying	Your payment at 150p per Ordinary Share	Number of Ordinary Shares for which you are applying	Your payment at 150p per Ordinary Share
200	£ 300	900	£1,350
300	£ 450	1,000	£1,500
400	£ 600	1,500	£2,250
500	£ 750	2,000	£3,000
600	£ 900	2,500	£3,750
700	£1,050	3,000	£4,500
800	£1,200	4,000	£6,000

3 Sign and date the Application Form in section 3

The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf (and/or on behalf of any joint applicant(s)) if duly authorised by power(s) of attorney to do so, but the power(s) of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed for inspection. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official whose representative capacity must be stated.

4 Insert your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in section 4

Applications may not be made by anyone aged under 18 (under 20 in Jersey), but you may apply as a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 (or under 20 in Jersey) for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should write your own name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in section 4 and put the initials of the child in the Account designation box. Insert "PARENT", "GRANDPARENT" or "GUARDIAN" as the applicant's status in section 4

If you make an application for a child in this way, you may also apply separately for your own benefit.

If you are a UK or EC regulated person to whom paragraph 5 of Part VII of the Prospectus applies, insert your status (e.g. "bank" or "broker") in section 4.

5 Pin a single personal cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft to your completed Application Form. Your cheque or banker's draft must be payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C Albright & Wilson Offer" for the full amount payable on application as inserted in section 2 and should be crossed "Account Payee"

No receipt will be issued for this payment, which must be solely for this application.

In each case the cheque or banker's draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a branch of a bank in the United Kingdom which is either a settlement member of the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company Limited or the CHAPS Town Clearing Company Limited or a member of either of the committees of the Scottish or Belfast Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques and banker's drafts to be cleared through the facilities provided by either of those companies or committees and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner.

Applications may be accompanied by a personal cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any monies to be returned will be done so by returning the cheque to the first named applicant or by sending a cheque crossed "Account Payee" in favour of the applicant(s).

Where verification is required pursuant to the Money Laundering Regulations 1993 and verification is not provided within a reasonable time, monies to be returned will be sent by cheque, banker's draft or banker's payment to the branch of the bank or society shown on the remittance. All returned monies, without interest and net of expenses, will be despatched at the risk of the applicant to the address shown in section 4 of the Application Form, whether or not the cheque or banker's draft was drawn by the applicant or a third party.

6 You may apply jointly with up to three other persons WHO MUST ALSO SIGN THE APPLICATION FORM

You must then arrange for the Application Form to be completed by or on behalf of each other joint applicant (up to a maximum of three other persons). Their full names should be inserted in BLOCK CAPITALS in section 6.

Section 6 must be signed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (other than the first applicant, who should complete section 4 and sign in section 3).

If anyone is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s), the power(s) of attorney or a copy certified by a solicitor must be enclosed for inspection.

The Money Laundering Regulations 1993

The Regulations came into force on 1 April 1994. Under the provisions of the Regulations, an applicant may be required to produce satisfactory evidence of his identity or the identity of any person on whose behalf he is applying under the Offer. Failure to do so within a reasonable time may result in the application being rejected or in the contract arising on the acceptance of his application being terminated.

You must send your completed Application Form, together with your personal cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft for the full amount payable and, if applicable, the power(s) of attorney under which you are signing or a certified copy thereof, by post, or deliver them by hand, to Lloyds Bank Plc, Lloyds Bank Registrars, Receiving Bank Services, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL so as to be received not later than 3.00 pm on Friday, 24 February 1995.

If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and allow at least two working days for delivery.

Photostat copies of Application Forms are not acceptable. Multiple or suspected multiple applications may be rejected in their entirety.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON
SHARE OFFER

Albright & Wilson plc
Public Application Form
Public Offer by BZW and Lazard Brothers of Ordinary Shares of 25p each in Albright & Wilson plc ("Ordinary Shares") at 150p per share, payable in full on application.

section 1 I/we offer to acquire ______ Ordinary Shares
(or any smaller number of Ordinary Shares for which this application is accepted) at 150p per Ordinary Share on the terms and conditions set out in the Prospectus relating to the Offer dated 16 February 1995.

section 2 I/we attach below a personal cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C Albright & Wilson Offer" for £*
*150p multiplied by the number of Ordinary Shares inserted in section 1

section 3 Signature ______ Dated ______ 1995

section 4 **Applicant's name and address: PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title	A/C designation (if applicable)
Forename(s) in full	
Surname	Applicant's status (if applicable)
Address in full	
Postcode	Daytime telephone no.

section 5 ☐ Pin here your personal cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft made payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C Albright & Wilson Offer" and crossed "Account Payee" for the amount set out in section 2.

section 6 **Additional joint applicant(s) (if any): PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title
Forename(s) in full	Forename(s) in full	Forename(s) in full
Surname	Surname	Surname
Signature	Signature	Signature

section 7 I/we warrant that:
(i) I am/we are not applying as, or as nominee(s) or agent(s) of (a) person(s) who is/are or may be, (a) person(s) liable to stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax under Sections 67, 70, 93 or 96 of the Finance Act 1986 (depositary receipts and clearance services);
(ii) I am/we are not applying as, or as nominee(s) or agent(s) of (a) person(s) who is/are, (a) market maker(s) in Ordinary Shares in Albright & Wilson plc within the meaning of Section 81 of the Finance Act 1986;
(iii) I am/we are not applying as, or as nominee(s) or trustee(s) of, a body of persons established for charitable purposes only; and
(iv) I am/we are either (a) not a US Person (within the meaning of Regulation S under the US Securities Act) and not applying on behalf of or with a view to the re-offer, sale or transfer to, or for the benefit of, a US Person or (b) a "Qualified Institutional Buyer" (within the meaning of Rule 144A under the US Securities Act).

Delivery of Application Form

Applications must be received by 3.00 pm on 24 February 1995. The completed Public Application Form, together with a personal cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable and, if applicable, the power(s) of attorney under which you are signing, or a certified copy thereof, should be posted, or delivered by hand to Lloyds Bank Plc, Lloyds Bank Registrars, Receiving Bank Services, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL so as to be received not later than 3.00 pm on Friday, 24 February 1995. T

Application Forms must be received by 3.00 pm on Friday, 24 February 1995

Copies of the Prospectus and Mini Prospectus may be obtained at the above addresses during normal business hours until 2 March 1995 and the Prospectus will also be available during normal office hours at the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP on 17 and 20 February 1995. However, all Public Application Forms must be sent by post or delivered by hand to the address specified on those forms.

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If that sounds like your dream come true, then The Equitable With-Profits Bond is a winning combination for your investments.

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And, as part of your medium to long-term investment plans, The Equitable With-Profits Bond can play an important and profitable part.

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If you would like more information on achieving the best of both worlds with The Equitable With-Profits Bond, call Aylesbury (01296) 26226, or return the coupon below for details by post and by telephone.

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هكذا من الاصل

Gas users not in control

Richard Gilbert finds that he is not alone in British Gas's fiasco over direct debits

COLOUR UNLIMITED

The promise of smaller bills prompted over a million people to switch payment methods

British Gas customers who have recently changed their monthly payments from standing order to direct debit are discovering that, in direct contrast to the company's perky advertising pledge, they are most definitely *not* in control.

In a week when the company admitted that customers' complaints had doubled in 1994, hundreds of gas users are demanding the return of *thousands* of pounds after British Gas accidentally helped itself to up to three payments in one month from their bank accounts.

The promise of a 5 per cent reduction in the size of their gas bills by joining the new DirectPay system prompted more than a million people to switch their payment methods in just six weeks.

Along with hundreds of other customers, Michael Harrison, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, was surprised to discover that after filling in the DirectPay application form, British Gas continued to take his monthly standing order payment from his account as well as the new monthly direct debit. In January, he found that he had paid British Gas twice within three days.

There seems to have been great confusion caused by the DirectPay application form. Customers filling it in were led to believe that the new direct debit payment would automatically replace their standing order without their having to take any extra action themselves by writing to their bank or building society.

Indeed, the "Welcome to DirectPay" leaflet says: "This will be done automatically on your behalf when we receive the signed form."

But, in some cases, British Gas has failed to inform customers' banks that the existing standing order should be cancelled when the direct debit payments begin. If customers do not then submit separate instructions to cancel the standing order, they could find themselves paying twice a month, like Mr Harrison.

To make matters worse, Mr Harrison discovered that the size of his direct debit payment was 8 per cent higher than the standing order in spite of the clear statement in the "Welcome to DirectPay" leaflet that says: "Your monthly payment will remain the same until your next review."

My own experience with the new DirectPay scheme is even more alarming. Glancing at that tale of horror, mystery and suspense known as my monthly bank statement, I noticed that the first instalment of my new direct debit payment to British Gas was taken by them from my account on February 2 and then again on February 6.

Not content with that, my previous standing order payment, which I assumed had been cancelled, also went out to them on February 6, thus giving British Gas three generous contributions instead of one. The attractions of a 5 per cent reduction in my gas bill had suddenly been replaced by a 200 per cent increase.

> ‘Hundreds of customers are demanding the return of thousands of pounds’

When I contacted British Gas North Thames and queried the payments, a helpful customer services employee told me that hundreds of customers had been phoning with similar problems and *that she had had two payments* collected from her own account in one month.

Apparently the double DirectPay payment has been caused by computers wrongly assuming in some cases that, if customers' details and mandates are processed late in the month, an extra payment needs to be taken from their account. The Gas Consumers Council also reports a steady flow of similar complaints.

In addition, it says that some customers who have paid their gas bills in advance to avoid the new 8 per cent fuel surcharge have found that, after they signed up with DirectPay, money was taken from their bank account for the consumption of gas for which they had already paid.

The only good news is that if you contact British Gas about these unauthorised payments it will refund you promptly. But events like these will lead customers to question the reliability of direct debit payment methods and be wary of signing mandates in the future. In the meantime, British Gas and Cedric Brown, its chief executive, must be sitting on a cash *mountain*. A British Gas spokesman commented: "We will certainly follow the problem up. All customers who find themselves in any of these situations should inform us immediately. They will receive a swift refund. We will also reimburse any costs incurred by these errors, such as extra bank charges they have to pay."

HOW TO TACKLE PAYMENT QUERIES

- ■ If you have a query on your gas payments, phone the local inquiry number given at the top of your bill.
- ■ If you decide to pay by the DirectPay system instead of by standing order, ensure that your bank knows that you want the old standing order to British Gas cancelled.
- ■ Inform the Gas Consumers' Council of any errors: Gas Consumers' Council, Abford House, 15 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1LT, Tel: 0171-931-0977.

Take AIM for a riskier share

Private investors, bemused and confused for years by a succession of markets aimed at regularising share trading in smaller companies, will soon have to get used to a new acronym.

The Alternative Investment Market (AIM), to be launched on June 19, is the Stock Exchange's latest trading vehicle for investors wishing to buy and sell shares in smaller, younger companies in an officially regulated environment.

It will replace the Unlisted Securities Market (USM), which is due to close at the end of this year, but has a wider remit than its predecessor.

SECTOR IN FOCUS

AIM

AIM-listed stocks will include start-ups and management buyouts, family-owned businesses, former BES companies and regional companies, as well as those USM companies unwilling, or unable, to apply for a full listing. It will also take in stocks whose shares change hands only occasionally, currently traded under Rule 4.2.

Broadly speaking, AIM stocks will be higher risk than those listed on the main market, but will offer greater potential to make a killing.

All companies must appoint an adviser and a broker. The adviser will be expected to make sure that the company sticks to Stock Exchange rules and the broker must ensure that, wherever possible, there is a market in the shares. The two functions may be carried out by the same firm.

The choice will be wide ranging, from reasonably large family-owned firms supported by several market-makers, to *tiny start-ups with the potential* to take off like a rocket, or sink without trace, and whose shares will probably be traded only through the nominated broker. In the latter case, the shares may be extremely difficult to deal in, as they are likely to be available only on a matched bargain basis, which means you will be able to buy or sell only if another investor is willing to trade.

Remember too that, if the company is up to no good, its nominated adviser has the right to resign, at which point the shares will be automatically suspended. If a new adviser is not found within 30 days, the company will be delisted. Taking all this into account, it is obviously vital to check out not only the investment potential of the companies, but also the quality of the advisers backing each stock.

AIM-listed stocks must inform the Stock Exchange of all price-sensitive developments, including interim and final results, directors' movements and shareholdings and material transactions. But the only documents you as the shareholder are likely to receive is the annual report and accounts. Many AIM stocks will be too small, or too obscure, to attract press attention. As a consequence, you may be deprived of information about quite significant developments at a crucial time for the share price.

LIZ DOLAN

Are you leaving your heirs less tax more inheritance?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing.

But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of **Inheritance Tax** when you die.

And that share can be quite dramatic.

For example, on an estate of £400,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be an equal beneficiary. If there were *three children they would each get* £100,000 but the Exchequer would also take £100,000.

And it gets worse; above £150,000 the rate is a flat 40%. At Towry Law we can help you make plans to reduce your liability and pass on your accumulated wealth to your chosen beneficiaries.

Now think for a moment. I.H.T. does not just apply to the very rich, it applies to everybody with assets above £150,000.

Think what your house and investments are worth. And then think: I must get in touch with Towry Law today.

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Please send me, without obligation, your free guide on "The Death Tax: How to Avoid It".

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I would like a financial review . ☐

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Postcode ________

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For information (office hours only) telephone: Windsor 0753 868244, Edinburgh 031-226 2244, Glasgow 041-204 2854, Leeds 0532 445811, Belfast 0232 247121 or Birmingham 021-454 4544.

Sensible, sound, well balanced.

If you're weighing up your PEP options, here's one that's tipped firmly in your favour.

Like all PEPs it's a sensible way to save your money tax-free.

But, unlike most others, it invests in a balance of equities and bonds and is based on some sound thinking about reducing risk.

Available with a special discount until 29th March, it offers investors a tax-free income of over 6% and capital growth potential too.*

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We may telephone to confirm that you have received the information requested

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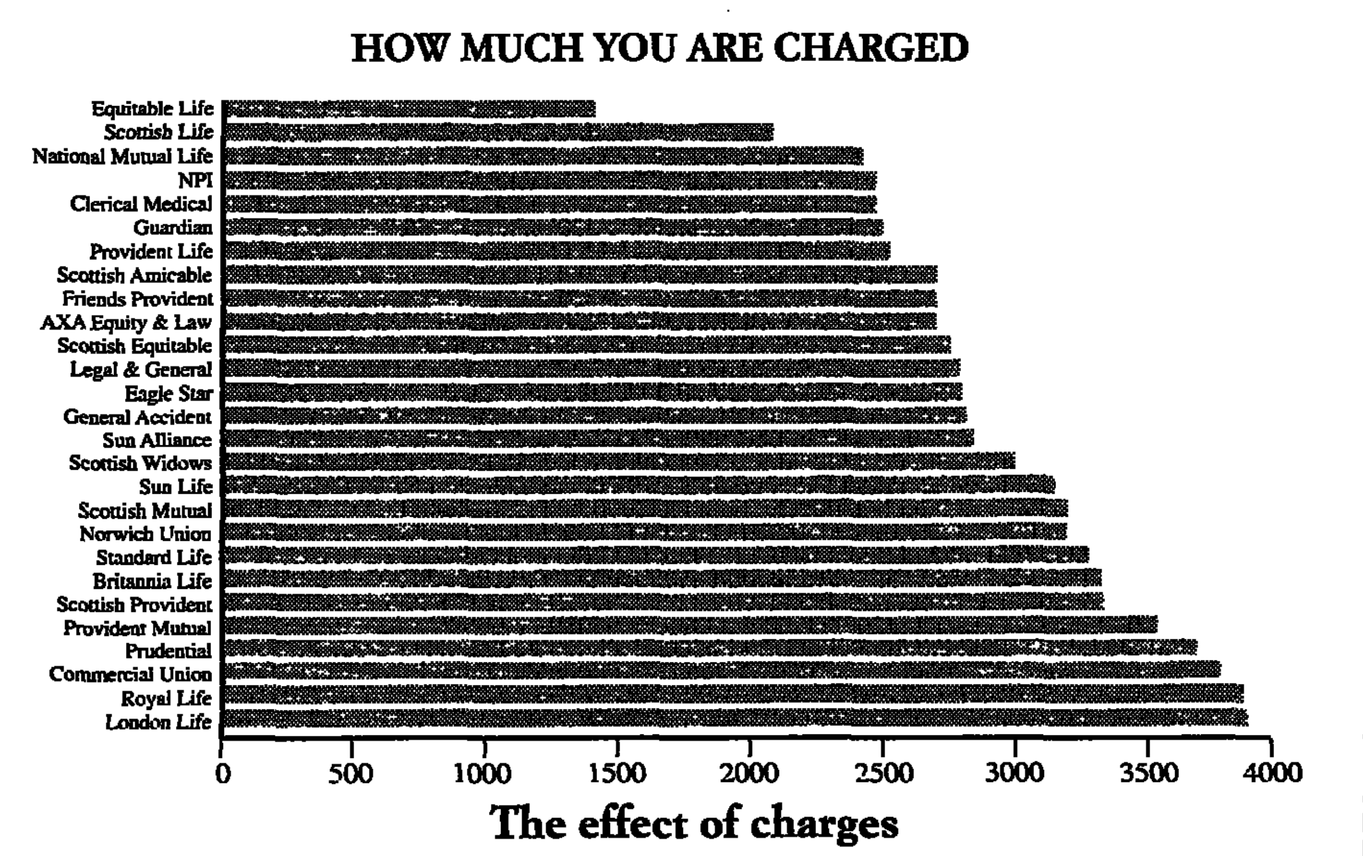
WHICH COMPANY WOULD YOU CHOOSE YOUR PENSION FROM?



In a recent survey of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, The Equitable Life was *shown to have the lowest* charges of all the companies surveyed.

The chart above shows the effect of charges to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £100pm, 10 year with-profits regular contribution personal pension plan. Source: Money Marketing 19 January 1995.

But charging you less is only one part of The Equitable's value for money philosophy.

PERFORMANCE

In a survey of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans by the industry journal, Money Marketing May 1994, The Equitable appeared in the top ten in five out of six investment performance tables.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

FLEXIBILITY

With an Equitable Personal Pension Plan you may vary your contributions to suit your circumstances, without penalty. Should you wish to retire earlier or later than planned, you may do so without penalty.

STRENGTH

The international rating agency Standard & Poor affirmed its AA (Excellent) rating of the Society, commenting "... S&P regards capital strength as excellent, while investment performance over recent years has continued to be strong."

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Postal 50 is a new savings account from Coventry Building Society. It gives you top rates of interest, as well as the convenience of operating through the post.

Withdrawals are allowed on 50 days' notice or immediately, subject to a penalty.* And as we provide all the stationery to operate your account, including reply-paid envelopes, there's no extra cost to you.

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YOU CAN COUNT ON THE COVENTRY

*Withdrawals without notice are subject to a penalty equivalent to 50 days' interest on the amount withdrawn.
The following variable gross annual interest rates and investment bands apply to Postal 50 Account - balances of £2,000+ 6.55%, £10,000+ 7.05%, £25,000+ 7.30%, £40,000+ 7.40%. Monthly rates also available. Coventry Building Society is one of the country's top 15 building societies. The Society, which is authorised by the Building Societies Commission, has assets exceeding £3 billion, capital and reserves of £214 million and branches throughout the Midlands. The Society is a member of The Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme. This account is only available to UK residents. Information correct at time of going to press.

The risks of a fixed rate

Sara McConnell

tracks the new fixed-rate offers launched by societies

Building societies are trying to tempt savers to tie up their money for up to five years in fixed-rate bonds in return for interest rates that may look quite good now but almost certainly will not be so attractive if base rates continue to rise.

More generous looking rates for savers are gradually appearing in the windows of building society and bank branches as institutions start to reflect on the two base rate rises of recent months.

National Westminster and Lloyds have both raised savers' rates by up to 1 per cent, while Birmingham Midshires has added a quarter of a percentage point. The base rate now stands at 6.75 per cent, one percentage point higher than in November.

Most societies have not raised mortgage or variable savings rates since the second base rate rise at the beginning of this month. Instead, they are launching fixed-rate bonds to try to draw in new money or lock up that of existing customers in other accounts. Several societies have launched fixed-rate bonds this week.

■ **The Chelsea** is paying a fixed rate of 8.5 per cent gross, 6.38 per cent net, for three years on balances of £5,000 and over.

■ **The Portman and the National & Provincial** have both launched step-up bonds, a variation on a plain fixed rate. These pay a fixed rate of interest every year, rising by a set amount on each anniversary of the investment. The rates are set at the outset.

■ **The Portman's** four-year step-up bond will earn 7 per cent gross, 5.25 per cent net, in the first year, rising to 11 per cent gross, 8.25 per cent net, in the fourth year on a minimum investment of £500. The rate remains the same regardless of the balance.

■ **National & Provincial** savers can choose to fix stepped-up rates for between one and five years. They will earn 7 per cent gross, 5.25 per cent net, in the first year, rising to 9 per cent gross, 6.75 per cent net, in year five on balances of between £500 and £10,000.

Once you have opened one of these bonds there are stringent penalties for withdrawals. N&P pays 120 days' interest after the first 120 days, during which you are not allowed to make withdrawals. So if interest rates start to rocket upwards, you will be stuck.

Advertisements for these and other fixed rates will stress the gross rate and if it is a stepped rate bond, the gross rate in the final year, to show it in the best light. You will get this rate if you stay the course and are not a taxpayer. If you pay tax, the rates start looking less attractive. The net rates published above are what you will get as a basic rate taxpayer. If you are a higher rate taxpayer you will get even less.

It is worth comparing returns on fixed rate bonds with those paid on other types of account, says Vicki Burn, deputy editor of *MoneyFacts*, the specialist magazine. Postal accounts, which often allow instant access, pay some of the best rates. If you have £5,000 to invest you would get:

■ 6.55 per cent gross, 4.91 per cent net, annually in the Coventry Building Society's new postal account, Postal 50. You must give 50 days' notice of withdrawal.

■ 6.25 per cent gross, 4.69 per cent net, in the instant access Liquidity account from Sun Banking Corporation. The bank also has a 60-day account, Liquidity 60, paying 7 per cent gross, 5.25 per cent net.

■ 6.25 per cent gross, 4.69 per cent net, in the Skipton's instant access account, called 3, High Street.

The way we were: National Savings in the Second World War appealed to the patriotic

A long wait for National Savings

It is more than a year since investors in National Savings accounts with variable rates (investment accounts, income bonds and ordinary accounts) saw rates rise on their savings. It is five months since rates rose on accounts with fixed rates (pensioners' income bonds, savings certificates, childrens' bonds and First Option Bonds), to bring them into line with gilt rates. And, if there are plans to raise them further to take account of recent interest rises, there was no sign of that this week.

Savers have deposited £3.2 billion in National Savings since April. A big chunk has gone into premium bonds, which have had a new lease of life since the monthly jackpot was raised to £1 million.

Ironically, it could be the legendary British love of gambling that is actually keeping savers' rates down.

The reason for National Savings' existence is to bring in money to fund government debt. Every year, the Government sets National Savings an "assumption", effectively a target. This year it has to raise £3.5 billion by April 1995, but because of huge inflows through premium bonds, it is well on track. If it was not, it would be under pressure to raise interest rates to attract more money away from building societies and banks.

Alternatively, it could increase the maximum permitted holding as it did last year. National Savings emphasised that it still has to compete with building societies.

But many of its fixed-rate plans lock people into rates for five years, paying a minimal amount of interest as long as the plans are not cashed in early, or applying stringent penalties.

Fixed-interest certificates, index-linked certificates and capital bonds pay no interest if they are cashed in in the first year.

People aged over 65 who hold pensioners' guaranteed income bonds have to give 60 days' notice and lose 60 days' interest if they withdraw early. So anyone thinking of putting away money in a fixed rate account may do better to hold off until interest rates rise.

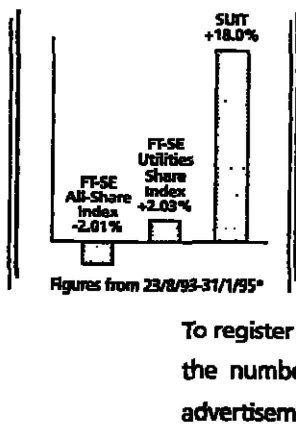
National Savings was giving nothing away this week. But it hinted that people looking to start saving may might do well to wait.

SARA MCCONNELL

NEW ISSUE NEW PEP

Now you can follow SUIT.

Following the success of Foreign & Colonial Special Utilities Investment Trust PLC (SUIT), the Directors propose to issue Separate Ordinary Shares ("S" Shares) and Warrants.



Figures from 23/8/93-31/1/95*

- One Warrant issued at no extra cost with every five "S" Shares purchased
- No initial PEP charge for 94/95 & 95/96 SUIT PEPs
- Expected timetable
- Mini prospectus available 6th March
- Offer closes Tuesday 28th March

To register for a mini prospectus please telephone the number below stating where you saw this advertisement and quoting the coupon reference code. Alternatively, post the coupon today.

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INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

24 Hour Phone Service 01734 828 806

Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd,
PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW

*Source: Foreign & Colonial Management Limited. This advertisement does not constitute or form part of an offer to subscribe for or purchase any securities. The value of shares and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Warrants often involve a high degree of gearing so that a relatively small movement in the price of shares to which warrants relate may result in a disproportionately large movement, unfavourable as well as favourable, in the price of the warrants. Past performance is no guide to the future. In particular, investors should not expect the performance of the pool of assets attributable to the "S" shares to reflect that of SUIT's existing portfolio which is predominantly invested in UK water-only supply companies, significant holdings in which are difficult to acquire. Returns to investors may be affected by changes in the rates of exchange between Sterling and the currencies in which SUIT's investments are denominated. Tax benefits may vary as a result of statutory changes and their value will depend upon individual circumstances. Issued by Foreign & Colonial Management Limited, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2NY. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

Two new PEPs from Fidelity.

Maximum income with security. Or high income with growth.

The New Generation of tax-free investments has arrived.

Don't take out this year's PEP until you hear about the exciting new launches from Fidelity.

In the November Budget, it was proposed that PEPs could invest in certain corporate bonds in the new tax year. This is a welcome breakthrough for income investors. Investing in fixed-interest securities, corporate bond PEPs will offer higher levels of income with lower risk than traditional PEPs.

The Government is due to finalise the rules very soon. Fidelity is poised to take advantage of this attractive new development right away with the launch of two new funds designed to let you tap into this new investment opportunity this tax year.

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- Maximum income option
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- Flexibility - invest in either or both PEPs
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- Monthly income payment facility
- No charges against your capital

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To find out more call us free on 0800 414171, contact your Independent Financial Adviser, or return the coupon.

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Please register me for details of the new Fidelity PEP launches.
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The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up, and an investor may not get back the amount invested. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings will depend upon individual circumstances.

[illegible]

Employees whose pension schemes are being wound up can face five-year delays, says **Helen Pridham**

Pensioners caught up in waiting ordeal

The employees of a company that goes under are victims twice over. First they lose their jobs. Then they can be left in ignorance about their pension fund contributions. After *The Times* reported on the extensive powers of independent trustees appointed to pension schemes when businesses go bust, many employees came forward to voice their worries about their pension schemes. Their concerns centre on the time it takes to wind up a scheme and distribute the benefits. Some are facing a wait of as long as five years.

Nowhere have delays been more apparent than in the winding up of thousands of small company pension schemes that were set up by Crown Financial Management in the 1980s and subsequently sold to Century Life at the end of 1992.

Century Life specialises in buying and administering smaller insurance companies, or unwanted parts of other insurers' business. Many involved with the Crown schemes believe that Century Life is not performing as fast as it might. They also believe that the problem is not restricted to Century Life.

Bruce Piggott, a member of one of the pension schemes, who has been waiting four-and-a-half years to get news of his pension benefits, says: "There seems to be no commercial incentive for any of the organisations involved to complete their task quickly."

However, Penny Green, of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, says putting a time limit on pension scheme wind-ups could cause more problems than its solves. Nevertheless, she admits that OPAS has had to ask receivers, insurance companies and independent trustees to speed up their acts.

To get things moving is the aim of J Keith Park & Co, a firm of solicitors that has formed an action group to fight for the rights of the Crown/Century Life pension scheme members after finding that some its own staff were affected. Rod Knight, head of financial services litigation at the firm, says that so far about 4,000 scheme members have contacted him. Between 100,000 and 250,000 people are believed to be involved in the 5,500 schemes transferred. About 4,750 of the schemes have now been discontinued and are being wound up.

Greg Osborne, Crown spokesman, explaining the reason for the transfer of business to Century Life, says: "We were finding this business very complex and expensive to administer. We discussed the matter with Century Life and they were confident they could do the job more efficiently than us with fewer people. We believed the transfer was in the interests of our clients. It was approved by the High Court in December 1992."

However, Crown's systems had been paper based, and Century Life's plans to computerise them proved difficult. John Deane, Century Life customer services director, says: "We are having to reassess the data for each and every scheme before we can take any further action."

But he says that, since the beginning of 1994, Century Life has been working to a three-year project plan and meets every three months with representatives of OPAS and the Department of Social Security to discuss progress.

Mr Deane says: "So far we are bang on target. We have undertaken a thorough data audit of 32 per cent of the schemes and been able to quote benefits to trustees in 23 per cent of cases." But this means it will still take until 1997 for Century Life to work its way through all the schemes.

However, even when Century passes its findings to the trustees, there is no guarantee members will be informed quickly of their fund values. Indeed, Century says to avoid problems arising at this stage, it is preparing a document reminding trustees of their duties. Where a company is in liquidation, independent trustees are responsible for winding up the scheme. They draw fees from the pension fund for as long as this process takes.

PICTURE PARTNERSHIP

Norman Church is sceptical about small company schemes

How ombudsman failed to get results

Even if you get the Pensions Ombudsman on your side, it may not help you much — as Norman Church found out recently. He was employed by R. K. Transport Ltd of Croydon during the 1980s, and in 1986 became a member of his employer's pension scheme, which was then managed by Crown, but later passed to Century Life.

In 1989, he left the company to join the Royal Mail. When he approached his former employer, who was also the trustee of the pension scheme, for a transfer value in 1991, he received no response. So he and another ex-colleague sought help, first from the Occupational Pension Advisory Service, and then the Pensions Ombudsman.

In December 1994, the Ombudsman gave their former employer a time limit of one month to provide more information about the scheme, and three months to provide details of pension values. He also ruled that the employer should pay both men £100 as compensation for the delay.

When Mr Church still heard nothing from his former employer, he contacted Century Life direct, only to be told on January 30 this year that his former employer's company had gone into liquidation in June 1993.

Because his former employer had subsequently set up another company with a very similar name, Mr Church was unaware of the liquidation — and so was the Pensions Ombudsman. What is more, the liquidator of the original company was unaware of the existence of the company pension scheme, and had been within two days of finally winding up the company. The liquidator must now appoint an independent trustee, but Mr Church is worried about the impact that this trustee's fees will have on his fund.

Century Life says it is now monitoring the list of firms going into liquidation.

For Mr Church, the case has been an eye opener. He is very happy with the Post Office scheme, which keeps him well informed about benefits, but he is sceptical about small company schemes. "There seems to be nothing employees can do to protect their own interests."

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China sits waiting for a new leader to emerge. And nowhere can be sure to avoid the impact of the new regime. In Europe, political confusion is the order of the day. Both Great Britain and Italy see their current political order either threatened or in tatters as a result of crises of confidence or scandals. But Europe has its share of world class companies, and the prospect of vigorous competition as Eastern Europe re-builds.

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On line for lower life premiums

Richard Branson's entry into the life and pensions arena with Virgin Direct could cut costs, **Liz Dolan** says

Are life and pensions premiums set to plummet? The question has to be asked in a week when Direct Line launched its new low-price dial-a-life-policy service, and the life and pensions industry itself admitted that new annual premiums business had plunged by 10 per cent in 1994.

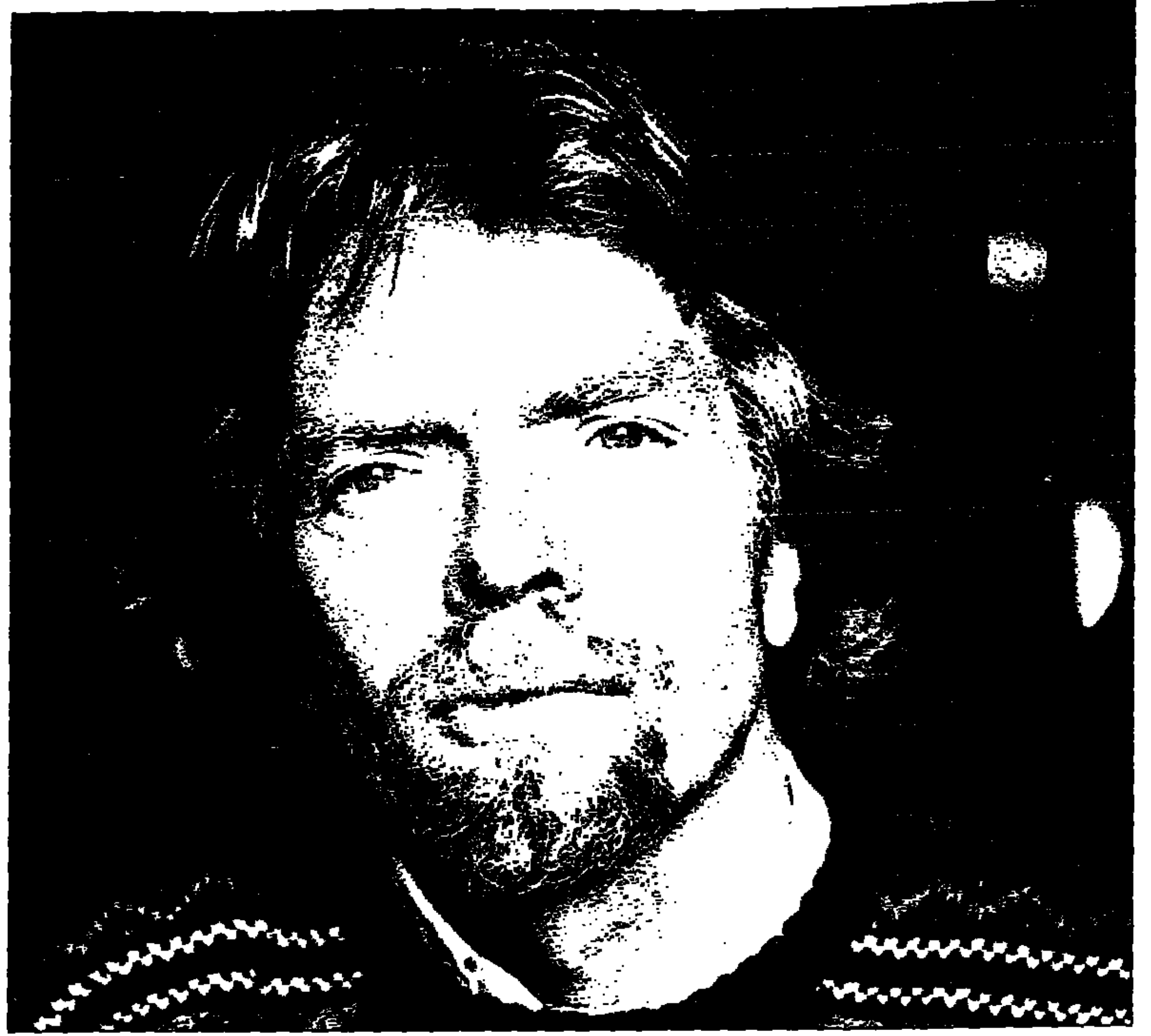
Later this year, both Richard Branson's Virgin Direct and Marks & Spencer follow Direct Line into the life and pensions arena.

All three are still largely trusted by a public that has been horrified by tales of pension mis-selling and sky-high commissions charged by household names in the life industry. The images of many banks and building societies have been similarly besmirched.

Virgin's new financial services operation, another telephone-only service, kicks off with a no-frills, cut-price Pep in the first week of March, and plans to follow that up with an assault on the life and pensions marketin the autumn.

The insurance industry was completely wrong-footed when Direct Line first entered the market ten years ago. Virtually dismissed as a flash-in-the-pan interloper, the new boy on the block rose to become Britain's biggest private motor insurer in less than a decade, thus vastly swelling the coffers of its parent, the Royal Bank of Scotland, and sending the personal fortune for Peter Woods, its founder and chairman, into the stratosphere.

When Direct Line widened its field of operations to household insurance, its competitors tried a bit harder to compete, cutting premiums and setting up various telephone-based operations. But, although these had the magic word "Direct" tacked on to the company's name, they still offered basically the same commission-paying, intermediary-led services as previously.


SALLY SOAMES

Richard Branson's Virgin Direct plans to offer a "menu of lifetime needs" in its financial package

David Nisbet, life assurance analyst at NatWest Securities, is convinced that insurers will be faster on their feet this time round. "The insurance industry has now accepted that it was far too slow to react to Direct Line and it is determined not to make the same mistake again on the life side," he says. "But anything it does will have to be at the expense of margins." In other words, whatever happens, the price of life assurance is likely to fall substantially.

Direct Line's service is aimed at people who want straight protection policies untainted by investment products. Its staff are paid decent salaries, and premiums are kept low by minimal overheads and the fact that staff do not have to waste a lot of time trying to drum up business.

Direct Line's decision to concentrate on protection-only policies shields it from the growing debate about industry ethics. An increasingly sophisticated public is beginning to suspect that bemused punters are too often persuaded to buy incomprehensible investment products when they really wanted a straight protection policy, just to line the pockets of sales staff and companies. This general unease is thought to be one of the reasons for the sharp fall in new business last year.

"To date, there is no doubt that life companies have managed to hide fairly hefty margins in relatively complicated products," Mr Nisbet says. He reckons that the arrival of the new user-friendly, cut-price brigade will make further inroads into profits already under pressure from commission disclosure, introduced at the beginning of this year.

From January 1, anyone selling a life assurance product has to disclose the amount of commission, and related expenses, that customers will have to pay. Under the old system, most policyholders were totally ignorant of the fact that a large chunk of the premiums they paid in the first few years were gobbled up in commission charges. Neither Direct Line nor M&S pays commission to sales staff and Virgin has no intention of doing so.

If competitors set up their own telephone services, or new telephone sellers enter the market, there is likely to be a general increase in "unbundling" — Direct Line's term for splitting investment and protection products. But, Mr Nisbet says: "I think telephone selling will appeal most to the 25 to 40 age band. It should take a reasonable proportion of that market, but it is a relatively small segment — certainly less than 10 per cent of premiums."

Virgin disagrees. "We think there are about ten million people who would benefit from Peps, but most of them are too scared to come forward, either because they don't understand the product or are nervous of being ripped off," a spokesman said. "Our Peps will be really simple to understand."

A wide ranging marketing campaign, with advertisements appearing in glossy consumer magazines as well as newspapers, is expected to paint Virgin Direct as a friendly, down to earth alternative to the unapproachable, or downright morally reprehensible, competition.

But, in common with both Marks & Spencer, which already markets unit trusts and Peps, and Direct Line, Virgin's aggressive approach will be restricted to competitors, not to customers. These will always have to make the first move, it says, a straight reversal of the traditional industry view that life assurance is always sold, not bought.

Old hands say that this "come up and see us sometime" approach will fail because, while the public may flock to buy cut-price motor insurance, products that it does not absolutely have to buy at a specific time may be a different kettle of fish.

It is true that M&S has yet to pose any real threat to its unit trust and Pep rivals, although this may be partly due to the pedestrian performance of its products, and Direct Line does not appear to have scored the same mega-success with its household business as it did with motor.

Finally, there is the question of investment performance. "It makes little sense for any investor to seek a discount if it means he is compromised into accepting an inferior investment," Haydn Green, of the Pep Shop, a financial adviser, says. "Virgin is likely to discover that these people are more discerning than Cola drinkers."

WHAT VIRGIN WILL BE OFFERING

VIRGIN Direct has been set up in partnership with Norwich Union. Virgin says: "Norwich Union were the only people who were prepared to do it our way. That's to say to devise new products to our specifications."

■ The Pep, to be launched in the week ending March 4, will track the performance of a specific investment index, but which one has yet to be revealed. Virgin claims that charges will be lower than for other Peps on the market.

■ The life and pensions package, to be launched in the autumn, will offer customers "a menu of lifetime needs". Answers to questions about customers' circumstances and requirements will be fed into a computer, which will then suggest which products would suit them. Policyholders pay just one premium, however many products they choose.

WHAT DIRECT LINE IS OFFERING

THE company is selling a single product, the Direct Line Income Plan. This offers a selection of four basic types of cover:

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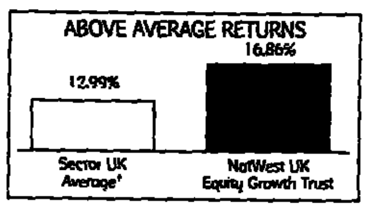

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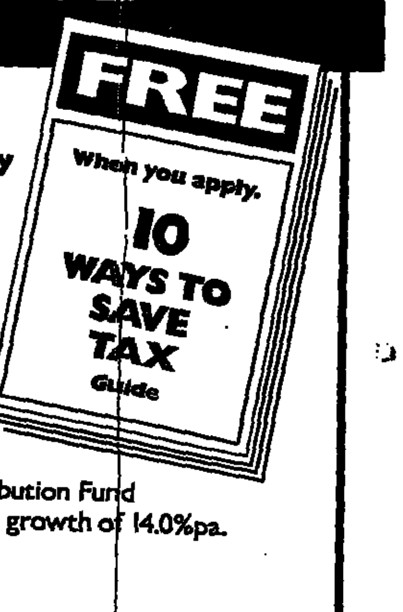

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هكذا من الاعلى

Ian Hunter looks at the new maternity benefits for part-time workers

Mothers win extra rights

BARRY GREENWOOD

Sandra Tickle has found childbirth costs mount up

Pregnant part-time workers achieved a small victory on February 6 when the Government brought the Employment Protection (Part-Time Employees) Regulations into force. These extend the statutory maternity rights enjoyed by full-time workers to part-timers.

However, as Sandra Tickle, an expectant mother, knows, childbirth is expensive and the statutory rights are not generous. Ms Tickle, a corporate sales manager from south London, says: "The initial outlay on clothes and other items is significant, particularly when you know your income is about to take a significant drop."

The legislation governing maternity rights is complicated. A further tier was welded on last year, under the auspices of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act.

In response to these complexities, the Department of Employment has produced a free booklet, *Maternity Rights*. This guide sets out pregnant workers' rights.

Female employees who comply with a series of rules have two basic rights: an entitlement to maternity pay and the right to return to work at the end of the maternity leave period. Since the Act was passed, all women, irrespective of their length of service or hours of work, have had the right to 14 weeks' maternity leave. At the end of that period they have the right to return to the same job.

Women, such as Ms Tickle, who have worked for the same employer for more than two years, have a right to a longer maternity absence. This entitles the employee to return to the same or similar employment up to 29 weeks after the child's birth.

During the 14-week maternity leave, all employees have the right to benefits other than remuneration. This generally means the right to benefits such as the use of a car, medical cover and pension contributions, but not pay. Those women who qualify for maternity absence do not have a right to these benefits beyond the initial 14-week period. There is nothing to prevent employees negotiating additional benefits. Ms Tickle will retain the use of her company car throughout her absence.

Flat-rate statutory maternity pay (SMP) is currently fixed at £52.20 a week. To qualify, expectant mothers must have worked for at least 26 weeks and must continue to work until at least 15 weeks before the child is due. SMP is payable for 18 weeks.

Those, like Ms Tickle, who have worked continuously for more than two years prior to the week when the child is due, are entitled to an enhanced payment — 90 per cent of their earnings for the first six weeks and SMP at the basic rate for the remaining 12 weeks.

There is little help for low-paid working women. Those who earn less than £57 per week (the lower limit for National Insurance Contributions) are not entitled to SMP.

It is unlawful for employers to discriminate against pregnant employees. If an employee is dismissed for a pregnancy-related reason she will have an automatic claim for unfair dismissal, regardless of her length of service. Normally, employees must complete two years' service before they are eligible to submit an unfair dismissal claim to the Industrial Tribunal. In addition, pregnant employees who are discriminated against in areas such as promotion opportunities, pay, or the provision of fringe benefits, may submit a claim to the tribunal in respect of sex discrimination. Such claims must be submitted at any time within three months of the act of discrimination. Unfair dismissal awards are fixed at a maximum of £17,150, depending on the employee's age and length of service. By contrast, sex discrimination awards are unlimited.

For those returning to work, like Ms Tickle, day-time child care is a top priority. Only a limited number of employers have crêche facilities. Private crêches are often expensive. Ms Tickle found that the nursery she visited in west London was charging as much as £600 per month.

One alternative for working mothers is to employ one of the country's estimated 100,000 nannies. A new organisation, the Nanny Umbrella, was launched this month. Its members have produced a free leaflet, *So You Want To Employ A Nanny?*, which gives practical advice on the steps to follow when employing a nanny.

So You Want To Employ A Nanny? is available from Parents at Work by sending a sae to Parents at Work, 77 Holloway Road, London N7 8JZ.

BRIEFINGS

Thirty-one million Britons will pay a total of more than £5 billion in unnecessary taxation this year. An investigation by IFA Promotion, which represents more than 15,000 independent financial advisers, highlights three key areas. Up to £1.32 billion is wasted by taxpayers failing to open Tessas and by six million non-taxpayers who do not register to receive gross interest on their savings. Another £735 million is wasted by investors who do not make use of Peps. The national aversion to forward planning means that £735 million is paid in inheritance tax that could have been avoided. For a free guide, *Taxation 95: An Enlightened View on how to make Savings*, call IFA Promotion's consumer hotline: 0117 971 1177.

■ In advance of corporate bonds, Peps that will invest in different types of fixed-interest stocks. Brooks MacDonald Gayer, the financial adviser, and Framlington, the fund management group, have prepared guides. The Inland Revenue's rules have yet to completed, although the Chancellor said in the Budget that the new Peps would become available from April. Brooks MacDonald Gayer will update their guide regularly. For a free copy, phone 0171-499 6424. Copies of Framlington's *Guide to Convertibles* may be obtained by calling 0171-496 040.

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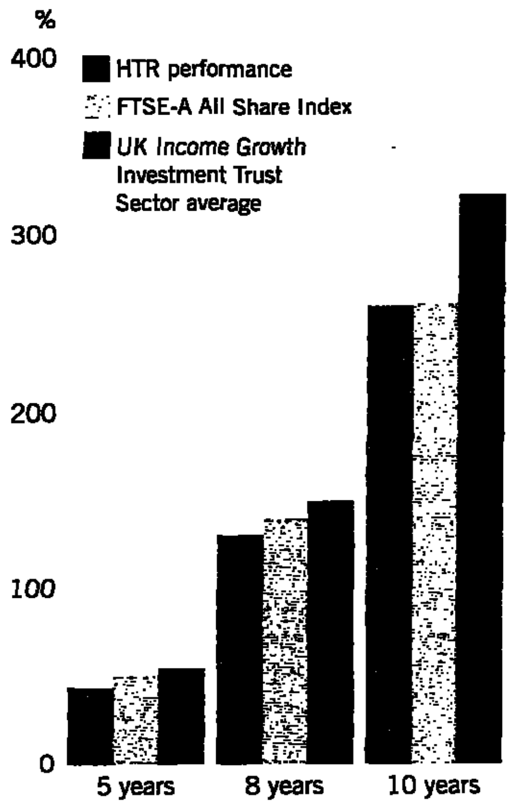

The chart shows the average performance of the two UK Income Growth Investment Trusts managed by Henderson Touche Remnant – TR City of London Trust PLC and Lowland Investment Company plc – compared with their investment trust sector average and with the FTSE-A All Share Index, over 5, 8 and 10 years.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Credit card charges rise

CREDIT card rates, which are slow to fall when rates elsewhere are being decreased, are rising in response to the latest base rate rises (Morag Preston writes).

Barclaycard has taken the lead and will be raising its monthly rate from 1.585 per cent to 1.65 per cent, APR 22.9 per cent, from March 1.

According to Bob Potts, chief executive at Barclaycard: "We have held the Barclaycard rate at its lowest level for over 15 years, despite three base rate rises over the last six months. It is with reluctance that we make today's announcement."

Mark Christopher, of Save & Prosper, which has its own competitively priced card, predicts that credit card interest rates could rise by more than 1 per cent over the next year.

He said: "Because there has been an increase in funding costs and no increase in the credit card interest rate for so long, a lot of credit card rates will go up in the next couple of months.

"Banks are still saddled with the problem of people who pay off their balances in full each month and so don't pay interest at all."

To keep its rate at APR 14.6, Save & Prosper offers various choices to attract people who use their credit cards to borrow money.

Mr Christopher points out "the reverse Robin Hood effect", whereby borrowers subsidise the half who pay their accounts in full and end up paying interest rates over the odds.

He said: "This is proof that credit cards are imperfect products. People who pay their bill in full should choose a card like Switch or Barclays Connect, which debits their account directly. They should review what they pay on their credit card, and look for cheaper alternatives."

Credit card interest rates are under review at NatWest and Midland. NatWest last changed its rate in January when it was reduced by 0.1 per cent.

The current rate at Midland is 22.3 per cent. It was last increased in October 1990 when the monthly rate was 2.35 per cent, and has been falling since then.

A Midland spokesman said: "It is a decision based on risk, much more than mortgage lending or personal loan lending. The majority of people don't have a standing order or direct debit, so it is a relationship established on trust."

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Company	1yr %	2yr %	3yr %	4yr %	5yr %	Minimum Investment
Abbey Life[1]	—	—	—	—	5.90	£3,000
Abbey Life[1]	—	—	—	—	6.30	£25,000
AIG Life	6.00	6.40	6.45	—	—	£5,000
AIG Life[2]	6.25	6.70	6.76	—	—	£50,000
Consolidated Life[3]	5.25	5.50	5.65	5.75	5.85	£2,000
Gan Life & Pension[1]	4.10	5.50	5.90	6.10	6.20	£5,000
Gan Life & Pension[4]	5.60	6.30	6.50	6.60	6.70	£50,000
Nat West Life[5]	—	5.20	5.85	6.00	6.10	£5,000
Premium Life[6]	4.00	5.50	6.40	6.70	7.00	£1,000
Reliance Mutual[1]	—	—	—	—	5.30	£5,000
Reliance Mutual[1]	—	—	—	—	5.60	£25,000

[1] Income only; [2] Growth & monthly income at lower rates; [3] 7 years 6.00%; [4] Monthly income at lower rates; [5] Details obtainable from Nat West Life 0272 404080; [6] Monthly income from £10,000 0—10 years 7.00%

Yorkshire Electricity in focus

ALL eyes were turned to Yorkshire Electricity this week, after the President of the Board of Trade's decision to give the go ahead for Trafalgar House's bid for Northern Electricity. The spotlight is now on the Swiss Bank Group, which is supporting Trafalgar House in its takeover attempt. Investors have noted that, while the Swiss bank has only 3 per cent of Northern's shares, it actually has an 8 per cent holding in Yorkshire.

Hanson has been named as a likely bidder, but a host of other names have also been mentioned. Yorkshire's shares have jumped from 819p to 874p this week. Other targets in the electricity sector include Southern (up from 823p to 874p since Monday), South Western (874p from 823p) and Midlands (784p from 759p)

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yl
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Britannia BS 01538 391741	Capital Trust	Postal	£10,000	6.50	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Guaranteed Rsrv	2yr bond	£2,000	8.10	F/Yly
Britannia BS 0800 269655	3 year Fixed	3yr bond	£2,000	8.75	F/Yly
Cooperative Bank 0800 125100	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£2,000	9.25	OM
Bristol & West BS 01179 294271	Fixed Rate Bond	5yr bond	£5,000	8.70	F/Mly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,900	9.00	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 01455 251234		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Barclays Bank 0800 400100		5 year	£3,000	7.50	Yly
Dunfermline BS 01383 627727		5 year	£3,000	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 01702 349393	MasterCard	1.25%	16.00%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Bank (NI) 01232 245277	13.60%	£114.27	£100.83
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 680140	15.90%	£115.81	£103.77

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

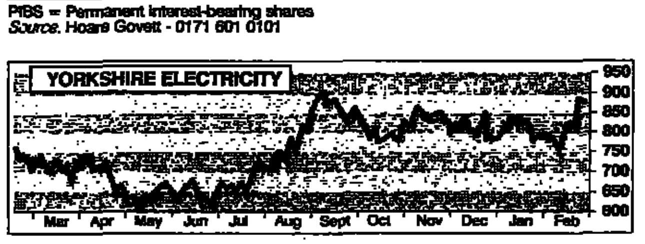
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)

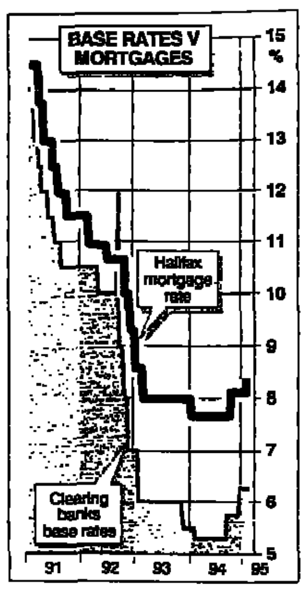
PIBS

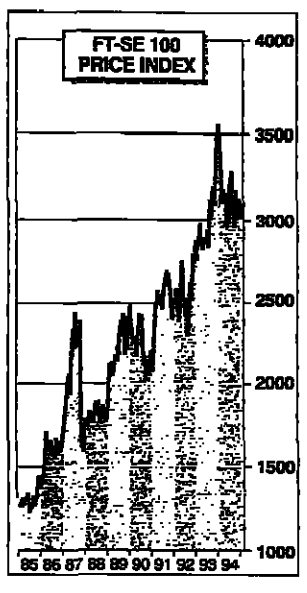
FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	89.50	10.469	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.50	10.242	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	126.25	10.297	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.75	10.470	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	124.25	10.463	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.25	10.108	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	114.50	10.574	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	103.25	11.380	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.00	9.943	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.25	10.063	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	135.25	10.074	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	126.75	10.552	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.375	10.501	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	121.00	10.434	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	121.00	10.434	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.00	10.553	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	8.9875%	101.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	8.8854%	102.75	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source. Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101







LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£15k+	75	5.3% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	3.15	£40k+	80	5.29% discount to 2.1.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555 100	3.59	£60k+	60	4.75% discount to 29.2.96
NatWest Home Loans 0121 234 8013	3.60	£120k+	75	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Coventry 01203 839333	2.00	to £125k	75	6.40% disc-12 mnths
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.50	to £150k	60	Rate fixed to 1.1.96
Yorkshire 0274 740740	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0734 510100	3.40	£20-210k	90	5.10% discount to 1.4.96
NYPO - MSL 0344 394000	2.76	£15,001-£500k+	90	5.59% discount to 1.3.96

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c*[8]	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond*[8]	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond[4]	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†[2][3]	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Yearly Plan†[3]	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond[5][8]	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416382603
8th Index Linked†[3]	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2[8]	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000[6]	60day	01253766151

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. Inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings [8] Taxable but cred in full*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Lfe..........Level	£10,970	£12,004	£13,330
Comm Union..........Level	£10,412	£11,682	£13,342
Can Life..........Level	£10,556	£11,710	£13,276
Sun Lfe Ca..........Level	£10,547	£11,581	£12,942
Generali..........Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life..........Level	£9,668	£10,511	£11,731
Equitable..........Level	£9,933	£10,743	£11,862
Can Life..........Level	£9,739	£10,563	£11,778
Generali..........Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
Prudential..........Level	£9,814	£10,538	£11,606

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Nrwch Uni..........Lev	£9,638	£9,907	£10,689
Equitable..........Level	£9,549	£10,163	£11,008
Can Life..........Level	£9,335	£9,979	£10,897
Prudential..........Level	£9,429	£9,989	£10,779
Generali..........Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Britannia 0800 526350	2.90	to £100k	80	5.45% to 2.1.96
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.50	£35-£150k	95	6.95%-6 months 2% for 1 year
Skipton 0800 590545	2.24	to £150k	95	6%-5 months then 1.75% for 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland 0132 556 8555	3.94	£15k-150k	95	4.50% discount to 31.1.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 0753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	449.00	475.20	- 4.10	...
UK Equity	560.40	593.10	- 7.20	...
Property	487.30	515.70	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	313.90	332.30	- 0.80	...
Money	252.50	267.30	+ 0.20	...
International	369.80	391.40	- 5.00	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	279.10	293.80	...	...
-do- Acc	527.30	555.10	...	...
Equity Fd Inc	162.70	171.30	- 1.80	0.0
-do- Acc	217.10	228.60	- 2.30	0.0
Selective Fd	483.30	508.80	- 2.20	0.0
Money Fd	380.40	400.50	+ 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.10	432.80	...	...
Equity Ser 4	209.70	220.80	- 1.80	...
Man Ser 4	645.70	679.70	- 6.10	0.0
Conv Ser 4	330.70	348.20	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	330.40	347.80	+ 0.10	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	342.00	360.00	- 1.80	0.0
American Ser 4	483.70	509.20	- 4.70	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	660.50	695.30	- 2.10	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	207.10	218.00	- 0.70	0.0
Japan Ser 4	333.10	350.70	- 6.90	0.0
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£14.79	£15.57	-18.30	...
European Fd Acc	360.70	379.70	- 1.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	496.30	522.40	- 2.90	...
Gtd Money Acc	337.00	354.70	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	576.90	607.20	- 3.80	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	318.20	334.90	- 0.20	...
Japan Fund	241.70	254.30	-10.10	...
N American Acc	312.40	328.90	- 2.60	...
Prop Fd Acc	446.40	469.80	- 0.80	.
Multiple Inv Acc	988.30	£10.40	-12.20	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	375.00	394.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	£13.49	£14.20	-14.20	..
Property Acc	585.20	616.00	+ 0.30	...
Far East Acc	292.70	308.20	- 3.30	..
Managed Capital	509.10	535.90	- 5.20	...
-do- Acc	£10.47	£11.03	-10.30	...
Overseas Acc	897.80	945.10	-10.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	474.00	499.00	- 3.30	..
Amer Equity Acc	763.00	803.20	- 3.20	..
Amer Man Acc	325.40	342.60	- 1.80	.
Amer Prop Acc	115.40	121.50	- 2.10	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	157.70	166.00	- 0.50	.
Balcd Ser 6	693.20	729.60	- 7.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	155.50	163.60	- 1.30	..
Distribution Ser 6	95.90	100.90	- 3.50	7.27
UK Equities Ser 6	937.40	986.70	-13.20	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.14	£10.68	- 8.30	...
North Amer Ser 6	444.60	467.90	- 8.50	...
Far East Ser 6	537.40	565.60	- 5.10	..
Europe Ser 6	362.90	382.00	- 0.70	..
Intnl Ser 6	539.90	568.30	- 7.00	..
Property Ser 6	579.60	610.10	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	429.40	451.90	- 1.80	
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	177.00	186.30	- 0.70	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	298.30	313.90	+ 0.30	.
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	806.70	849.20	- 8.70	...
-do- Initial	529.80	557.70	- 5.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	373.70	393.40	- 2.30	...
-do- Initial	247.60	260.70	- 1.50	...
International Acc	380.10	400.20	- 5.30	...
-do- Initial	250.30	263.50	- 3.50	...
Managed Acc	502.80	529.30	- 5.30	...
-do- Initial	332.20	349.70	- 3.40	...
Money Acc	292.90	308.40	+ 0.20	..
Property Acc	305.80	321.90	+ 0.40	...
-do- Initial	200.60	211.20	...	...
America Acc	268.50	282.70	- 1.20	...
Australia Acc	192.90	203.10	- 3.50	...
Financial Acc	312.70	329.20	- 1.60	..
500 Accum	419.80	441.90	- 0.40	...
Japan Genl Acc	306.00	322.20	-12.70	...
Income Acc	494.70	520.80	- 5.50	...
Leisure Acc	216.20	227.60	- 3.00	...
Special Sits Acc	224.80	236.70	- 1.80	..
Univ Tech Acc	150.40	158.40	- 1.80	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	776.06	776.06	- 7.02	...
Income Fund	739.10	778.0	- 5.00	..
Extra Income	670.34	705.63	- 4.67	.
Worldwide Gth	463.90	488.32	- 0.84	.
Balanced Fund	639.77	673.45	- 5.64	...
Smllr Cos Recov	662.97	687.34	- 2.49	...
N Amer & Genrl	344.02	362.13	+ 0.40	..
Pacific Basin	396.57	417.45	+ 2.53	...
German Growth	239.15	251.74	+ 7.60	...
Japan Growth	162.91	171.49	- 5.09	...
The UK Gth Fd	201.56	212.17	- 2.27	...
Contl Euro Gth	132.67	139.66	+ 2.01	...
Property Fund	414.51	436.33	- 0.35	...
Fixed Interest	301.88	317.77	+ 0.97	..
Cash Fund	284.98	299.98	+ 0.21	..
Managed Inv	469.80	494.53	- 4.53	...
Nth Amer Recov	230.68	242.83	- 1.63	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	496.37	522.50	+ 7.41	..
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888000				
Measured Perf	153.20	162.10	- 1.50	...
Performance Plus	151.00	159.70	- 0.10	...
With Profit Perf	173.10	183.10	+ 0.10	...
UK Opportunity	169.80	179.40	- 2.70	...
Euro Opportunity	218.70	231.40	- 1.60	...
North Amer Opp	159.70	168.90	- 1.40	...
Far East Opp	172.20	182.20	- 2.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	125.90	132.50	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	182.00	192.50	- 0.10	...
Fixed Int	184.80	195.50	- 0.40	..
Cash	157.40	166.50	+ 0.10	...
Overseas	173.90	184.00	- 0.10	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	318.60	335.40	- 3.30	...
UK Equity	530.30	558.30	+24.10	...
Property	285.20	300.30	- 0.10	...
Money Market	253.60	267.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	296.20	311.80	+ 0.20	...
Japan	338.40	356.30	- 9.70	...
North America	145.30	153.00	- 1.00	...
International	271.00	285.30	- 0.70	...
European	282.20	297.10	- 2.60	...
Far East	121.10	127.50	- 1.80	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth	‡271.80	...	...	.
Managed	315.00	331.60	- 2.30	...
Property	237.90	250.50	+ 0.50	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	236.10	248.60	- 1.60	...
Equity	348.50	366.90	- 3.00	...
Cash	217.70	229.20	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	365.40	384.70	- 1.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	338.40	356.30	- 4.20	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	174.20	183.40	...	...
Managed Fund	577.00	607.40	+ 0.30	.
Equity Fund	328.70	346.00	- 2.80	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	275.40	289.90	- 2.20	...
Ruby	164.30	172.90	- 1.20	...
Emerald	142.70	150.30	- 0.20	...
Equity	313.40	329.90	- 2.50	..
Property	232.60	244.90	+ 0.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	197.80	208.30	- 0.80	...
Indexed Secs	164.40	173.10	- 0.40	..
Cash	188.40	198.40	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	216.60	228.10	- 1.00	...
Far East	299.00	314.80	- 4.30	..
International	229.90	242.00	- 2.00	...
Special Sits	311.40	327.80	- 0.40	..
Intl Income	280.00	294.80	- 1.10	...
American Inc	188.00	198.00	- 0.50	...
European	314.30	330.90	- 1.60	...
Japanese	135.10	142.30	- 2.10	...
SE Asia	336.20	353.90	- 3.20	...
With Profits Reg	166.80	175.60	+ 0.20	..
-do- Spec	166.80	175.60	- 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	305.20	321.30	- 4.60	...
Equity	360.60	379.60	- 8.20	...
Property	214.70	226.10	- 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	245.30	258.30	- 2.10	...
Index Linked	173.50	182.70	- 0.70	...
Cash	252.50	265.80	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	264.60	278.60	- 0.10	...
Far East Acc	291.80	307.20	- 6.10	...
International Acc	286.40	301.50	- 3.50	...
Special Sits	449.10	472.80	- 0.90	..
European Flex	432.10	454.90	- 0.50	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units):Key	‡210.28	.	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	‡302.25		...	..
-do- Cash	204.27	215.02	+ 0.14	.
-do- Equity	519.54	546.88	- 5.85	...
-do- Fxd Int	346.50	364.74	- 3.59	...
-do- Managed	372.94	392.57	- 4.28	...
-do- Property	292.34	307.73	- 1.05	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	208.29	219.26	+ 0.08	...
-do- Cash Inv	306.89	323.06	+ 0.33	...
-do- Equity Cap	£13.65	£14.37	+34.08	...
-do- Equity Inv	£20.12	£21.18	+51.61	...
-do- Fixed Cap	382.17	402.30	- 2.43	...
-do- Fixed Inv	563.10	592.75	+ 3.99	..
-do- Index Cap	195.68	205.99	+ 0.83	...
-do- Index Inv	288.32	303.50	+ 1.42	..
Mngd Cap	546.35	575.12	+11.25	...
Mngd Inv	805.00	847.38	+17.12	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	‡668.69	...	+ 0.83	..
Var Ann (5)	‡88.22	...	+ 0.25	..
Prime: Managed	385.40	405.70	- 5.00	...
Prime: UK Equity	461.60	485.90	- 7.00	...
Prime: Int Equity	290.70	306.00	- 3.40	...
Prime: Property	253.70	267.10	+ 0.40	...
Prime Fxd Int	225.70	237.60	- 1.60	...
Prime Index-Lnk	165.70	174.50	- 0.50	...
Prime: Cash	206.90	217.80	+ 0.10	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	£11.07	£11.65	+17.00	0.0
Equity Fund	£15.89	£16.72	+21.90	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	572.20	602.30	- 7.00	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	363.90	383.00	- 2.90	...
Life Equity Acc	797.00	838.90	- 9.70	...
Life Money Acc	302.90	318.80	+ 0.20	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	760.50	800.50	- 7.90	...
Life Intl Acc	476.90	501.90	- 6.70	..
Life High Inc Acc	774.30	815.00	- 7.90	...
Life Property Acc	259.70	273.30	+ 0.20	...
Crown Brit Inv A	£13.10	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	656.10	690.60	- 1.00	.
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	176.70	186.00	+ 0.10	...
Managed Fund	228.40	240.50	- 3.00	...
-do- Series 2	149.80	157.70	- 2.00	...
Adventurous Fd	180.60	190.20	- 3.80	...
-do- Series 2	138.50	145.80	- 2.90	...
Equity Mngd Fd	230.80	243.00	- 3.90	...
-do- Series 2	153.00	161.10	- 2.50	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	137.60	144.90	- 0.80	...
UK Equity Fund	154.00	162.20	- 1.60	..
Property Fund	121.80	128.30	- 0.10	...
Envrnmntl Opps	154.80	163.00	- 0.60	...
Euro Fund	182.90	192.60	- 0.50	...
North Amer Fd	185.10	194.90	- 1.30	...
Oriental Ops	219.30	230.90	- 2.70	...
Japanese Fund	116.10	122.30	- 3.10	...
Bri & West Life	124.90	131.50	+ 0.10	...
Bri & West Pen	141.20	148.70	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	249.50	258.60	- 1.00	3.54
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	292.80	308.30	- 3.50	...
UK Equity	386.60	407.00	- 5.60	...
Stewardship	326.40	343.60	- 1.70	...
Overseas Equity	268.30	282.40	- 3.20	...
North American	145.50	153.20	- 1.10	...
Pacific Basin	154.50	162.70	- 1.60	...
European	214.10	225.40	- 0.40	...
Property	204.60	215.40	+ 0.10	..
Fixed Interest	225.90	237.80	- 1.50	...
Index Linked	163.40	172.10	- 0.50	...
Cash	201.90	212.60	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	523.10	550.60	- 2.10	...
Managed	673.00	708.40	- 6.60	...
Deposit	346.50	364.70	+ 0.30	..
Property	487.40	513.00	+ 0.60	...
American	414.70	436.50	- 1.70	...
Australian	473.40	498.30	- 7.20	...
European	521.60	549.00	- 2.40	...
Income Acc	743.00	782.10	+ 6.60	...
-do- Dist	423.90	446.30	- 5.50	4.20
International	297.80	313.40	- 3.40	...
Japan Smaller	474.10	499.00	-12.20	...
Singapore & Mal	377.90	397.20	+ 3.00	...
Smaller Cos	385.20	405.40	- 5.00	...
Tokyo Fund	642.70	676.50	- 6.70	...
UK Equity	554.20	583.30	-19.80	...
CCM Vangd Mg	717.10	754.80	- 4.80	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	305.20	321.30	- 7.50	..
GT Plan Wwide	459.40	483.60	-15.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	662.30	662.30	- 7.80	...
-do- Inv A	662.20	697.20	- 8.20	...
UK Equity	391.60	412.30	- 5.20	..
Gilt Plus	196.60	207.00	- 2.10	..
Managed	294.00	309.60	- 3.60	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	202.20	212.70	- 2.10	...
Unitised Profit	138.40	145.60	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	269.30	283.40	- 1.30	...
Fixed Int	187.80	197.60	- 1.60	...
Index-Linked	160.10	168.40	- 0.60	...
Cash Deposit	175.30	184.40	+ 0.10	...
Property	192.90	203.00	+ 0.10	...
International	167.90	176.60	- 1.30	...
American	155.90	164.00	- 2.30	...
Japan	225.90	237.70	- 6.40	...
Japan Smllr Cos	233.60	245.80	- 4.10	...
European	177.50	186.70	- 3.20	...
Pacific Fund	268.70	282.70	- 3.60	...
Cmtv Life	121.30	127.60	- 1.50	...
For General Portfolio see Gan				
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	818.50	852.60	...	...
Managed Initial	435.10	458.00	- 5.90	...
-do- Acc	623.30	656.10	- 8.20	...
Equity Initial	646.50	680.50	-10.80	..
-do- Acc	926.20	974.90	-15.00	...
Fixed Int Initial	429.20	451.80	- 1.30	...
-do- Acc	614.90	647.30	- 1.50	...
Intl Initial	430.70	453.40	- 4.40	.
-do- Acc	617.00	649.50	- 6.00	...
Nth Amer Initial	169.50	178.40	- 1.10	...
-do- Acc	221.00	232.60	- 1.30	...
Pacific Initial	226.40	238.30	- 3.30	...
-do- Acc	292.40	307.80	- 4.10	.
Property Initial	180.10	189.50	...	...
-do- Acc	257.70	271.20	...	...
Index-Lnkd Intl	154.60	162.80	- 0.20	..
-do- Acc	201.60	212.20	- 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	198.00	208.40	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	283.60	298.50	- 0.30	..
Euro Initial	104.20	109.70	- 0.30	
-do- Acc	125.60	132.20	- 0.30	.
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	24.13	25.40	- 0.17	...
Balanced	24.29	25.57	- 0.21	...
Opportunity	24.27	25.55	- 0.21	...
Deposit	23.79	25.04	+ 0.02	.
Pension Funds				
Foundation	24.13	25.40	- 0.20	...
Balanced	24.35	25.63	- 0.25	..
Opportunity	24.32	25.60	- 0.26	...
Deposit	23.80	25.05	+ 0.02	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 01277 200939				
Managed	159.50	167.80	- 1.60	...
-do- Pens	194.90	205.10	- 2.00	...
UK Equity	162.10	170.60	- 1.50	..
-do- Pens	183.00	192.60	- 2.30	...
International	140.20	147.50	+ 0.20	...
-do- Pens	152.70	160.70	+ 0.40	...
Deposit	140.60	147.90	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	166.70	175.40	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	340.10	361.90	- 3.70	...
North America	341.70	363.60	- 3.40	...
Far East Fund	594.40	632.40	- 7.30	...
Global Managed	449.10	477.80	- 4.20	...
Deposit Fund	230.80	243.00	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	136.60	143.80	...	...
European Fund	257.70	274.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	60.80	64.70	- 0.60	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	486.30	514.70	- 3.10	...
British Fund	501.90	531.20	- 4.50	...
International	516.60	546.70	- 2.50	...
Dollar Fund	373.20	395.00	- 0.70	...
Capital Fund	456.90	483.50	- 4.40	...
Income Fund	660.60	699.10	- 5.30	...
Property Series A	459.70	486.50	...	4.90
Property Units	758.80	796.80	...	...
Financial Fund	544.90	576.70	- 2.70	...
Managed Ser A	519.20	549.50	- 3.80	...
Managed Units	929.90	978.90	- 6.60	...
High Yield Fund	625.10	661.50	- 4.90	...
Money Series A	290.60	307.60	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	383.30	405.60	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	585.50	619.60	- 5.20	...
Fixed Interest	357.00	377.80	- 0.20	...
Indexed Secs	180.80	191.40	- 0.40	...
European Fund	696.50	737.10	- 1.80	...
Natural Res	274.50	290.50	- 3.30	...
Far East Fund	618.20	654.20	- 7.30	...
Smaller Cos	463.50	490.50	- 0.40	...
Special Sits	429.60	454.70	- 3.10	...
Man Currency	262.70	278.00	- 1.00	...
Japanese Tech	262.70	278.00	- 7.20	...
US Smaller Cos	240.20	254.20	..	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	546.30	575.00	- 1.20	...
Global Property	292.30	307.70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	499.20	525.50	- 4.50	...
Global Equity	583.60	614.30	- 1.50	...
Global Cash	215.10	226.40	+ 0.10	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	488.20	513.80	- 2.70	...
Managed	397.30	418.20	- 4.90	...
American	394.40	415.10	- 3.80	...
UK Equity Fd	424.60	446.90	- 5.70	...
Japan	191.50	201.50	- 6.00	...
Index-Lkd	179.80	189.20	- 0.50	...
High Yield	819.20	862.30	-10.90	...
Money	406.00	427.30	+ 0.40	...
International	378.00	397.80	- 5.00	...
Henderson Active	207.40	218.30	+ 0.90	...
Perpetual Active	314.20	330.70	+ 1.20	...
Growth Acc	623.10	655.80	- 7.60	...
Gilt Edged	421.40	443.50	- 3.30	...
European	155.10	163.20	...	...
Far East	196.50	206.80	- 2.60	.
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Inlt	134.90	142.10	..	...
-do- Acc	187.60	197.50	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	136.60	143.80	- 1.00	...
-do- Acc	170.40	179.40	- 1.20	...
Cash Initial	167.50	176.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	289.70	305.00	+ 0.20	...
Equity Initial	624.60	657.50	- 6.00	..
-do- Acc	£10.80	£11.37	-10.40	...
Fixed Initial	333.90	351.50	- 1.70	...
-do- Acc	577.60	608.00	- 3.00	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	129.40	136.30	- 0.20	..
-do- Acc	191.00	201.10	- 0.40	...
Intl Initial	312.80	329.30	- 5.00	...
-do- Acc	532.70	560.80	- 8.40	..
Managed Initial	455.40	479.40	- 5.00	...
-do- Acc	787.80	829.30	- 8.60	...
Property Initial	218.90	230.50	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	378.80	398.60	+ 0.40	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units	‡£127.53	...	- 0.69	..
Property Units	‡£27.26	...	+ 0.01	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£64.94	£68.36	- 0.15	...
2nd Equity Acc	612.50	644.70	- 3.50	...
2nd High Inc Ac	595.80	627.20	- 1.80	...
2nd Property Acc	248.20	261.30	+ 0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	178.90	188.30	- 0.50	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	456.20	480.20	- 1.10	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	225.10	236.90	- 0.50	..
2nd Deposit Acc	284.80	299.80	+ 0.10	...
2nd Gilt Acc	297.40	313.10	- 2.60	...
2nd Amer Acc	645.80	679.70	+ 7.20	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	265.50	279.50	+ 0.60	...
2nd Index Acc	202.90	213.60	- 0.80	...
2nd Far East Acc	424.60	446.90	- 7.30	..
2nd Global Acc	162.60	171.20	- 0.90	...
2nd Euro Acc	160.90	169.30	+ 0.80	...
2nd Japan Acc	184.00	193.70	- 4.10	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	161.20	169.70	- 0.10	..
2nd Cap Gth Acc	124.80	131.40	...	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity	‡883.50	...	- 9.40	...
Fixed Interest	‡410.70	..	+ 0.30	..
Property	‡422.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	‡294.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed	‡584.90	...	- 4.20	..
Indexed Stock	‡207.60	...	- 0.80	...
International	‡283.80	...	- 1.40	...
Equity A	‡206.00	...	- 2.20	...
Fixed Int A	‡182.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Property A	‡185.80	...	+ 0.10	...
Deposit A	‡173.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Mixed A	‡192.20	...	- 1.40	...
Index Stock A	‡162.50	...	- 0.60	...
International A	‡177.30	...	- 0.90	...
Equity P	‡728.20	...	- 9.20	...
Fixed Int P	‡541.90	...	+ 0.40	...
Property P	‡336.80	...	+ 0.40	...
Deposit P	‡347.10	...	+ 0.70	...
Mixed P	‡536.70	...	- 4.60	...
Index Stock P	‡237.70	...	- 0.90	...
International P	‡329.10	...	- 1.90	..
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	‡555.60	...	- 2.50	...
-do- Acc	‡938.80	...	- 3.30	...
Property Cap	‡150.10	...	+ 0.10	..
-do- Acc	‡243.80	...	+ 0.40	...
Fxd Interest Cap	‡188.00	...	- 1.50	...
-do- Acc	‡307.20	...	- 2.20	...
Equity Cap	‡298.80	...	- 2.70	...
-do- Acc	‡494.70	...	- 4.00	..
Internatl Cap	‡217.60	...	- 1.60	...
-do- Acc	‡356.80	...	- 2.40	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	‡164.90	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	‡266.10	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap	‡324.30	...	- 2.50	...
-do- Acc	‡536.50	...	- 3.60	...
Moneymaker Fd	‡413.50	...	- 3.10	...
Capital Growth	‡£16.05	...	-12.30	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	394.00	413.80	- 4.60	...
Amer Rec Bond	462.30	485.50	- 7.00	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	233.80	245.60	- 4.70	...
Australasia Bd	201.90	212.10	- 4.90	..
Commodity Bond	285.30	299.70	- 7.00	..
Deposit Bond Acc	363.90	382.20	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	£14.71	£15.45	- 3.00	...
European Bd Acc	372.70	391.50	- 1.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	714.50	750.30	- 8.40	...
Far East Bd Acc	291.80	306.50	- 6.10	...
Gilt Bond Acc	427.70	449.20	- 4.70	...
Gold Bond Acc	135.30	142.20	- 5.80	.
High Yield Bond	323.50	339.80	- 2.70	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	202.60	212.80	- 0.90	...
International Bd	730.90	767.60	-15.80	.
Japan Bond Acc	248.90	261.40	- 6.00	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	243.80	256.10	- 9.20	...
Managed Bonds	850.60	893.20	- 3.10	...
Prop Bond Acc	327.90	344.40	- 1.60	...
Rec Bond Acc	731.90	768.60	- 7.60	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	213.20	224.50	- 2.70	...
UK Equity Acc	302.90	318.90	- 3.70	...
Special Sits	88.10	92.80	- 0.30	...
Special Sits Acc	125.30	131.90	- 0.30	...
North American	172.00	181.10	- 1.30	...
N American Acc	244.40	257.30	- 1.70	...
Pacific Basin	338.40	356.30	- 1.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	480.90	506.30	- 2.10	...
Fixed Interest	272.30	286.70	- 2.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	387.40	407.80	- 2.90	...
Property	177.90	187.30	...	...
Property Acc	253.10	266.50	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	152.10	160.20	...	...
Deposit Acc	216.70	228.20	+ 0.30	..
Managed	247.10	260.20	- 2.30	...
Managed Acc	323.60	340.70	- 2.80	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 01438 356101				
Managed Fund	690.90	727.30	- 6.10	...
Property Fund	546.50	575.30	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	879.00	925.30	- 9.50	...
Gilt Edged Fd	597.70	629.20	- 6.30	...
Deposit Fund	333.40	350.90	+ 0.20	..
Investment Fd	376.90	395.70	- 3.80	...
International	522.10	549.60	- 5.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	446.30	469.70	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	341.20	359.10	- 2.50	...
Gilt Edged	556.70	585.40	- 3.10	...
Interest Fund	389.60	410.10	+ 0.50	...
UK Fund	472.60	497.40	- 3.90	...
Intl Equity	582.60	613.20	- 4.40	...
Intl Managed	549.50	578.40	- 3.70	...
North American	212.40	223.50	- 1.60	...
Far East	435.40	458.30	- 4.10	...
Intl Currency	260.30	274.00	+ 1.00	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	466.30	490.80	- 4.20	...
UK Equity	579.50	609.90	- 7.30	...
Overseas Equity	456.80	480.80	- 4.70	...
Americas	387.60	407.90	- 6.80	...
Far East	514.50	541.50	- 6.50	...
Property	221.90	233.50	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	374.40	394.10	- 2.10	...
Indexed Gilt	225.80	237.60	- 0.90	...
Deposit	218.20	229.60	+ 0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	£13.73	£14.45	-12.40	...
Eqty Fund	£20.82	£31.39	-29.90	...
Property Fd	578.90	609.40	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int Fd	576.00	606.30	- 4.30	...
Deposit Fund	351.70	370.20	- 0.30	...
Intl Fund	233.60	245.90	- 2.40	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	157.60	165.90	+ 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	332.20	349.60	+ 0.30	...
Inv Equity	£11.62	£12.23	-16.50	...
Inv Managed	826.10	869.60	- 6.10	...
Ret Managed	920.40	968.90	-12.10	...
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	277.10	292.40	- 2.90	...
Fxd Interest Acc	235.60	248.60	- 0.50	...
International Acc	243.10	256.50	- 1.60	...
Managed Acc	212.30	224.00	- 1.60	...
Property Acc	227.40	239.90	- 0.10	..
Money Acc	155.60	164.20	+ 0.10	..
Spec Mkt Acc	214.50	226.30	- 2.90	..
Japan Equity Acc	117.70	124.20	- 2.80	...
N Amer Acc	151.60	160.00	- 0.60	..
Pacific Acc	150.90	159.20	- 0.90	..
European Acc	187.50	197.80	+ 1.20	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	460.30	484.50	- 5.20	...
Managed Initial	308.30	324.50	- 3.70	...
Equity Ord	691.20	727.60	-10.00	...
Equity Inlt	463.00	487.40	- 7.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	195.70	206.00	- 0.70	..
I-Linked Gilt Inlt	136.90	144.10	- 0.60	..
Oseas Equity Ord	365.50	384.70	- 3.00	...
Oseas Equity Inlt	244.90	257.80	- 2.10	...
Property Ord	284.20	299.20	+ 0.30	...
Property Inlt	190.40	200.40	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	272.90	287.30	- 2.80	..
Fixed Int Inlt	182.80	192.40	- 2.00	..
Deposit Ord	207.70	218.60	- 0.10	..
Deposit Initial	139.10	146.40	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	330.50	344.30	+ 1.60	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	768.90	809.30	- 6.60	...
Equity Fund	£14.23	£14.98	-16.30	...
Intl Fund	604.50	636.40	- 2.40	...
Fixed Interest	550.80	579.80	- 4.00	..
Property Fund	483.20	508.70	...	...
Cash Fund	367.30	386.70	+ 0.40	..
Pacific Basin	337.90	355.70	- 2.20	..
N American Fd	248.30	261.40	+ 1.10	...
Euro Fund	266.10	280.20	- 0.70	...
Balanced Fund	151.20	159.20	- 1.20	...
Strategic Fund	158.10	166.50	- 1.60	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	‡721.10	...	...	...
-do- Acc	431.40	454.10	...	...
Op Prop	510.40	537.30	- 0.10	...
Op Equity	912.10	960.20	- 8.50	...
Op High Yield	567.80	597.70	- 5.30	...
Op Managed	783.90	825.20	- 7.10	..
Op Deposit	395.70	416.60	+ 0.40	...
Inc Gth	284.20	299.20	- 3.90	...
Japan Smlr	233.60	245.90	-11.10	...
Managed Gth	245.00	257.90	- 2.70	...
Gilt	78.30	82.50	- 0.70	...
British	343.30	361.40	- 2.10	...
Global Bond	110.90	116.80	- 0.50	...
Global (35.34)	158.10	166.50	- 1.20	...
Gold Share	82.10	86.50	- 0.30	...
High Income	283.90	298.90	- 0.80	...
Income	404.40	425.70	- 4.50	...
Japan	405.50	426.90	- 6.90	...
UK Smlr Cos	326.40	343.60	+ 0.40	..
Mngd Growth	434.40	457.30	- 2.40	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	939.00	993.60	- 9.90	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	372.50	392.10	- 4.00	...
Equity Fund	521.50	548.90	- 6.30	...
Property Fund	339.80	357.60	+ 1.10	...
International	461.00	485.20	- 8.00	...
Pacific Basin	255.30	268.70	- 3.90	...
United States	253.40	266.70	- 2.90	...
Gilt Fund	356.20	374.90	- 4.10	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	751.10	794.90	- 4.10	2.56
Deposit Fund (2)	374.30	396.10	+ 0.40	6.61
Gilt Fund	507.80	537.40	- 3.50	8.34
Global Equity Fd	229.40	242.80	- 1.00	...
Property Fund (46)	111.90	118.50	...	6.62
AG Bond Fund	143.90	152.30	- 1.10	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	569.80	599.80	- 4.40	...
Fixed Interest	363.30	382.50	- 2.10	...
Index-Linked	191.60	201.70	- 1.00	...
International	444.50	467.90	- 3.30	...
Property	300.70	316.60	- 0.50	...
Cash	231.70	243.90	+ 0.10	...
Managed	455.90	479.90	- 3.10	...
Cap Gteed Bd	109.40	115.20	- 1.50	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	182.68	192.29	+ 0.15	...
Index-Linked	157.90	166.20	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	170.10	179.10	- 1.60	...
Mixed	249.10	262.20	- 2.80	...
UK Equity	232.60	244.80	- 4.20	...
International	251.50	264.70	- 1.80	...
American	249.10	262.20	- 1.80	..
Japan	224.70	236.60	- 2.30	...
European	255.20	268.60	- 1.80	..
Pacific	337.60	355.30	- 2.40	...
Technology	357.60	376.40	- 0.10	..
Currncy/Currncy	226.00	237.90	- 1.20	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	226.50	238.50	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	339.00	357.00	- 5.30	...
American	240.00	252.80	- 2.50	...
Pacific	328.50	345.80	- 2.40	...
European	471.70	496.70	- 2.40	...
International	296.30	312.00	- 2.60	...
Fixed Interest	232.20	244.50	- 0.40	...
Index Linked	190.70	200.80	- 0.20	...
Deposit	195.80	206.20	+ 0.20	...
Managed	276.10	290.70	- 3.00	...
Worldwide	116.50	122.80	- 0.50	...
Pen Worldwide	123.30	129.90	- 0.60	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£16.12	£16.62	+39.10	...
Safety Fund	229.40	241.50	- 1.10	...
Growth Fund	222.30	233.90	- 1.90	...
Opportunity Fd	218.20	229.70	- 1.10	...
Cash Fund	175.80	185.10	- 0.80	...
European Fund	336.80	354.60	- 0.80	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	196.40	206.80	- 0.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	176.90	186.30	- 0.60	...
International Fd	273.70	287.70	- 2.50	...
North American	230.30	242.50	- 0.10	...
Property Fund	130.10	137.00	...	...
UK Equity	236.20	248.70	+ 2.70	...
UK Smaller	225.80	237.70	- 0.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	256.40	270.00	- 2.90	...
Equity	262.60	276.60	- 3.20	...
International	263.30	277.20	- 5.30	...
Property	234.90	247.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	218.80	230.40	+ 0.10	...
Index Linked	175.10	184.40	- 0.70	...
Cash	188.10	198.10	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	766.90	815.90	- 8.20	...
Cash Fund	342.10	360.50	+ 0.30	...
Property Fund	295.30	311.20	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	879.00	935.20	-12.50	...
Fxd Interest Fund	452.10	476.40	+ 0.10	..
International	384.00	408.60	- 7.60	...
High Income	664.60	707.10	- 8.90	...
Far East	549.80	584.90	-11.40	...
North American	521.90	555.30	- 9.30	...
Special Sits	613.90	653.10	- 3.50	...
Technology	587.30	624.80	+ 0.90	...
Extra Income Fd	365.50	388.90	- 3.20	...
Gilt Fund	471.40	501.50	- 1.00	...
European	150.30	159.90	...	...
Adventurous Mg	210.10	221.20	- 2.90	...
Secure Mgd	145.30	153.20	- 0.80	...
Equity Inc Dist	110.70	116.70	- 1.20	5.03
North American	106.50	112.30	- 0.80	5.34
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	£9.12	£9.12	- 6.30	...
Inv Pol 2	£8.28	£8.72	- 6.00	...
Inv Pol 3	£7.91	£8.32	- 5.70	...
Inv Cash	£3.17	£3.34	+ 0.30	...
Mixed Fund	433.50	456.40	- 3.90	...
Equity Fund	510.90	537.90	- 4.60	...
Property Fund	247.30	260.40	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	468.90	493.70	- 6.80	...
Fixed Interest Fd	366.90	386.30	- 2.50	..
Indexed Stock Fd	192.50	202.80	- 0.70	...
Cash Fund	229.70	241.90	+ 0.20	..
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	368.90	387.80	- 1.90	..
Equity Acc	435.10	457.90	- 1.10	..
International Acc	331.20	348.60	- 0.80	...
Property	235.70	248.10	+ 0.10	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	270.40	284.70	+ 0.20	..
Equity	978.00	£10.29	-13.20	...
European	171.10	180.20	- 1.00	...
Far East	161.50	170.00	- 1.50	...
Fixed Interest	388.10	408.60	- 2.30	...
Index Linked	203.60	214.40	- 0.70	..
International	599.50	631.10	- 4.60	..
Managed	685.50	721.60	- 7.50	..
Nth American	142.90	150.50	- 1.10	...
Property	363.50	382.70	- 0.70	..
Pensions				
Cash	421.90	444.30	+ 0.40	...
Equity	£13.97	£14.70	-20.90	...
European	202.70	213.40	- 2.00	..
Far East	128.40	135.20	- 1.60	...
Fixed Interest	537.60	565.90	- 2.50	.
Index Linked	283.30	298.30	- 0.90	...
International	834.70	878.70	- 9.50	...
Managed	957.60	£10.08	-12.10	..
Nth American	175.30	184.60	- 1.50	.
Property	499.10	525.40	+ 0.80	.
Stock Exchange	215.10	226.50	- 2.80	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	639.30	673.00	- 4.20	...
Equity Fund	828.20	871.80	- 9.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	402.40	423.60	- 3.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	310.20	326.60	- 1.30	...
Property Fund	527.40	555.20	+ 0.50	...
International Fd	613.80	646.20	- 0.90	...
N American Fd	229.40	241.50	- 1.60	...
Far East Fund	216.10	227.50	+ 2.30	..
Deposit Fund	299.20	315.00	+ 0.20	...
International Bd	‡683.48	...	+ 0.79	...
Worldwide Bond	152.50	160.60	...	...
European	163.90	172.60	- 0.90	..
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	638.40	672.10	+ 2.10	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	434.10	463.90	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	‡609.10	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	‡567.90	...	+ 0.50	...
Agricultural Fd	‡829.10	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	‡796.50	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd	‡449.80	...	+ 0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc	‡475.40	...	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	‡340.30	...	- 2.00	...
Investment (A)	‡326.50	...	- 2.00	...
Equity	‡£12.06	...	-12.90	...
Equity Acc	‡£11.54	...	-12.40	...
Money Fund	‡477.40	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc	‡456.30	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	‡562.00	...	- 3.80	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	‡376.90	...	- 2.70	...
-do- Acc	‡376.90	...	- 2.70	...
Retire Annuity	‡£12.64	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	‡307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	‡228.10	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Account	‡£14.32	...	+45.30	...
Managed Acc	‡799.90	...	...	...
Equity Account	‡£11.32	...	...	...
Mngd Fund Acc	367.90	387.20	...	...
Equity Fund Acc	494.70	520.80	...	...
Prop Fund Acc	267.10	281.20	...	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	299.80	315.60	...	...
Money Fund Acc	222.50	234.30	...	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	199.40	209.90	...	...
Pers Pens Acct		£18.47	+52.70	...
Pens Mngd Acct	858.70	903.90	+25.70	...
Pens Guarantee	255.80	269.30	+ 1.30	...
Pens Equity	327.00	344.20	+10.80	...
Pens Property	306.30	322.50	+ 1.80	...
Pens Fixed Int	278.00	292.70	+ 1.50	...
Pens Intl	237.60	250.10	+12.40	...
Pens Money	238.60	251.20	+ 0.80	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	191.00	201.10	+ 1.20	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	865.30	910.90	- 7.80	...
Property Acc	306.60	322.80	- 6.30	...
Equity Acc	£13.99	£14.72	-13.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	388.90	409.40	- 2.70	...
Cash Acc	311.80	328.30	+ 0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	359.60	378.80	- 0.90	...
Japan Acc	279.90	294.70	- 7.90	...
Pacific Acc	350.90	369.40	+ 1.60	...
Far Eastern Acc	806.80	849.30	- 1.70	...
International Acc	570.90	601.00	- 2.60	...
Distribution Fund	270.00	284.30	- 1.60	6.16
European	192.30	202.50	- 1.10	...
Defind Dist	163.90	172.60	- 1.30	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	273.50	287.90	- 2.80	...
Property Fund	230.50	242.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	219.00	230.60	- 1.60	...
Money Fund	201.70	212.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	357.60	376.60	- 4.00	..
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 01296 394000				
Deposit	251.10	264.40	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser I	44.40	47.80	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	319.00	335.90	- 2.10	...
Gold	71.80	75.70	- 1.50	...
Managed	585.40	616.30	- 6.40	...
Mngd Growth	187.00	197.00	- 1.00	...
Mngd Opp	197.50	208.00	- 0.70	...
Property	332.20	349.60	...	...
Residential Prop	101.60	107.10	...	...
TSB American	188.50	198.50	- 0.90	...
TSB Brit Gwth	805.30	847.80	-12.10	...
TSB European	256.60	270.20	- 2.00	...
TSB Income	368.50	388.00	- 2.70	...
TSB Intl	394.10	414.90	- 4.90	...
TSB Intl Inc	275.90	290.50	- 1.30	...
TSB Pacific	382.50	402.70	- 5.80	...
TSB Prem Inc	244.00	255.00	- 2.50	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	659.00	694.40	- 7.80	...
Money Fund	320.10	336.90	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	580.10	616.50	+ 2.80	...
Fixed Interest	272.10	286.70	- 1.00	...
Property Fund	362.40	381.50	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	579.80	609.90	+ 2.20	...
Income	716.80	755.30	- 5.70	...
International Gth	605.50	638.00	- 6.60	...
Capital Fund	587.90	619.50	- 4.10	..
Recovery Fund	620.80	664.00	- 6.90	...
Japan & General	248.40	261.70	- 5.50	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.20	19.16	+ 0.01	...
Bear	18.95	19.95	- 0.06	..
Owl	19.77	20.81	- 0.10	...
Bull	17.21	18.12	- 0.08	...
Stag	18.05	19.00	- 0.09	...
Gilt Edged	18.30	19.26	+ 0.02	...
Deposit	15.92	16.76	...	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	24.77	26.07	+ 0.02	...
Bear	26.15	27.53	- 0.06	...
Owl	26.48	27.87	- 0.11	...
Bull	21.98	23.14	- 0.10	...
Stag	22.02	23.18	- 0.11	...
Gilt Edged	23.09	24.31	+ 0.06	...
Deposit	20.20	21.70	+ 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	557.98	...	- 2.57	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	323.05	340.05	- 2.93	...
N Amer Equity	272.90	287.26	- 1.20	...
Far East Equity	353.31	371.91	- 5.54	...
Fixed	288.53	303.67	+ 0.40	...
Cash Deposit	206.53	217.40	+ 0.13	...
Property	153.96	162.06	- 0.03	...
Special Opp	332.23	349.72	- 0.89	...
Managed	294.96	310.48	- 1.46	...
Index-Linked Fd	185.85	195.63	- 0.14	...

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Lenders unfair on mortgage indemnity and negative equity

From Mr P. A. Judkins

Sir, I have read with interest the letter "Relief of negative equity a priority" (Weekend Money Letters, February 4). The problems that the negative equity trap causes families who have fast outgrown their accommodation are enormous and many of your readers may be interested to learn of a new dimension to the issue.

During the summer of 1994, we were consulted by many people with negative equity who had become aware that they had paid for a Mortgage Indemnity Guarantee insurance policy (MIG) when they took out their mortgage. Essentially, this was an insurance policy that guaranteed a specific amount to the lender in the event that the property was worth less than the mortgage.

Our first step on taking instructions from a client was to try to obtain a copy of the MIG policy. We were surprised that, without exception, every single high street lender refused to disclose a copy of the MIG, saying that it was nothing to do with the borrower. Our initial reaction was that if this was so, then why not show it to us and if there is one thing set to raise the hackles of any lawyer it is this sort of response.

We have since managed to persuade some lenders to disclose their MIG policies to us, but there are still quite a number who, to date, are refusing to.

We have found out that one well-known lender, although charging the borrower for the MIG policy, was not, in fact, taking out the insurance. We have also discovered that other lenders seemed to have placed a different insurance than that which they implied they would be taking, for many borrowers were under the impression that the MIG (as the ordinary meaning of the words would suggest) was an insurance to cover the borrower for a fall in house prices. These are perhaps some of the reasons why the lenders are refusing to disclose the policies.

Ironically, by not disclosing the policies, then, in the long run, the lender is potentially causing financial loss to both itself and the borrower. It encourages borrowers who are already desperate to follow risky advice to hand in their keys to the property and tell the lender to claim for all losses, including the negative equity, under the MIG policy.

We believe that, over the next few months, there will be more media exposure of this topic. We think it is quite unacceptable that the high street lenders are refusing to come clean and disclose a copy of the MIG, which, after all, the borrower has paid for. Once the borrower has a copy, he can obtain independent advice as to what risks are covered by it and whether or not it will help him out of a negative equity situation. It would appear that the lenders ignore the contractual duty to their client, the borrower, to disclose everything relevant to the mortgage contract and seem more concerned with protecting the interests of the insurer.

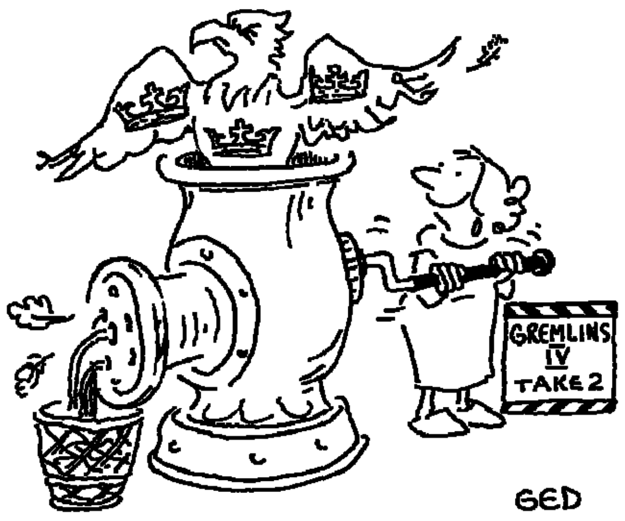
Until one sees a copy of every MIG policy, together with the mortgage terms, offer and conditions, one cannot ascertain whether a loss arising out of a sale on the open market is one of the risks covered by it. We should say that, from the MIG policies that we have seen, this seems unlikely.

However, what is not so certain is the situation where the borrower has repossessed the property and the insurance company are seeking to recover from the borrower that amount paid to the lender under the MIG. There is a growing body of legal opinion that would argue that, in these circumstances, the right of subrogation cannot apply.

One could be forgiven for concluding that had the lenders not been so willing to lend large amounts of money in the first place, house prices would not have become so inflated. It is indeed ironic that the poor borrower was made to pay for a insurance policy to protect the lender and not himself from the harsh consequences of negative equity. One must ask why it is that the MIG insurance contract was not made (as a condition of the mortgage offer) between the borrower and the insurer rather than the lender and the insurer. If it had been, many would have been spared misery.

PAUL JUDKINS,
Judkins & Co (Solicitors),
17 Bull Plain, Hertford.

Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.



Tit for tat as Barclaycard account is cut up

From Lawrie Hill

Sir, Before going on holiday last July, I requested a new Barclaycard, as mine no longer worked in the machines. Barclaycard said the speediest way to obtain it was to have it delivered to the nearest branch of Barclays. I called both before and after the holiday and the card had not arrived.

I continued to use my old card and settled the bills in full when they arrived.

In January, I was amazed when an art shop said it must retain my card when I tried to use it. As my account was clear I asked the shop to contact Barclaycard. To my astonishment, the assistant, whilst talking to Barclaycard, cut up my card in front of everyone. Humiliated and close to tears, I left the shop.

Upon contacting Barclaycard it informed me that as I had not picked up the card my account had been closed. Despite contacting me frequently with loan and other offers, it could not inform me of this. I confirmed that I also was closing my account.

Recently, however, it sent me an account for £97 as it had paid National Breakdown my annual subscription fee on direct debit. As I no longer have an account with Barclaycard, I went outside and cut up the account for all to see. Need I take any more steps?

Yours faithfully,
LAWRIE HILL,
The Nook, Husthwaite, York.

C&G members' interests should be considered as well as their money

From the Chairman, Building Societies' Members' Association

Sir, I am most unhappy with the way you have reported the fall in profits of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society (February 7). "The cut-throat competition for new mortgage business has taken its toll," you write. Kindly note, C&G members, that the society has incurred £7.3 million in costs — *your money* — for the doubtful privilege of not yet being taken over by Lloyd's Bank.

Competition for new mortgage business is healthy. Your angle suggests that you believe that societies should make big profits — despite their purporting to support the principle of mutuality. Do you subscribe to their greed for profits?

Some of us, too few, alas, still believe that building societies should pay as much interest as possible to members, and charge as little interest as possible to borrowers. But the gap keeps on growing, profits keep on growing — and the tax on those profits keeps on growing.

Note that UBS analyst, Rob Thomas, who was a mere £30 million adrift in his profits forecast, commented: "C&G could have tried harder to maximise its profits. But the society may have felt some pressure not to make a massive profit as there is no likelihood of Lloyds Bank increasing its valuation of C&G".

Who, seriously, can doubt that this can act against the public interest?

Yours faithfully,
JIM FRENCH,
Chairman, Building Societies' Members' Association,
3 Dell Lane, Billingshurst,
West Sussex.

From A. M. Maud

Sir, As a signatory for the C&G Building Society special meeting, let me try and help its chief executive, Andrew Longhurst, to understand its purpose. It is to get him to put members first, rather than his desire to run Lloyds Bank — the dowry if the bid succeeds.

C&G is being sold cheaply. Best value alternatives have not been fully explored, many shareholders have been excluded due to C&G's choice of qualifying dates (including many who held accounts long before the bid was announced), and management have been arrogant. The driving force in this bid appears to be the advancement of C&G senior management, not shareholder value as it should be.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. MAUD,
Northcott House,
Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire.

Pension priorities back to front

From Mrs Faye Hogg

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Dr James Gibson (Weekend Money, January 14).

I was married at the age of 19, in 1948, to a serving officer in the Royal Air Force and did all I could to support him in the various duties expected of one.

When he was medically discharged, in 1972, after 30 years' distinguished service as a wing commander, he received the sum of £6,000.

He died in 1976 and I received the State widows' pension thereafter. I remarried nearly two years later and lost my pension.

When I was widowed for the second time, in 1990, I applied to have my State widows' pension reinstated. The reply stated this was not possible as I had remarried before I was 60 years of age.

I have a friend who lives in Zimbabwe and has been widowed three times, but has retained (without reservation) all her pensions earned in Zimbabwe plus the United Kingdom State widows' pension as she remarried after the age of 60, though sadly that marriage ended a year after when her then husband died.

She never contributed to this country in any way as she emigrated as a young woman to the then Rhodesia. I certainly don't bear any grudge against her, it is just that the so-called system of "women's rights" have got the priorities back to front.

There must indeed be many other circumstances where women are penalised and humiliated for having done the "decent" thing and chosen marriage instead of cohabiting discreetly without being "caught out".

Yours sincerely
FAYE HOGG,
11 Clare Road,
South Benfleet,
Essex.

Why does Ernie come at a premium?

From Mr Graham Walker

Sir, Would someone please explain to me why it is no longer possible to buy Premium Bonds in less than £100 units. Surely, this mandatory and illogical restriction is against our interests. There are many people who would prefer to buy bonds rather than do the Lottery, provided they were able to buy, as they used to, in smaller amounts.

Imposing a limit of £100 is yet another, unnecessary, imposition on the rights of the less affluent members of society.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM P. WALKER,
13 Dorchester Road,
Up Holland, Lancashire.

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Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque. Post your completed application form and cheque to National Savings (Premium Bonds), Freepost BJ 2092, Blackpool, Lancashire FY0 1BR. If you prefer, use a first class stamp for rapid delivery.

If, before applying, you would like further information and a Prospectus, pick up a Premium Bonds sales booklet at your post office where you can also buy your Premium Bonds.

Or call us free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0500 500 000 and we will send you a sales booklet.

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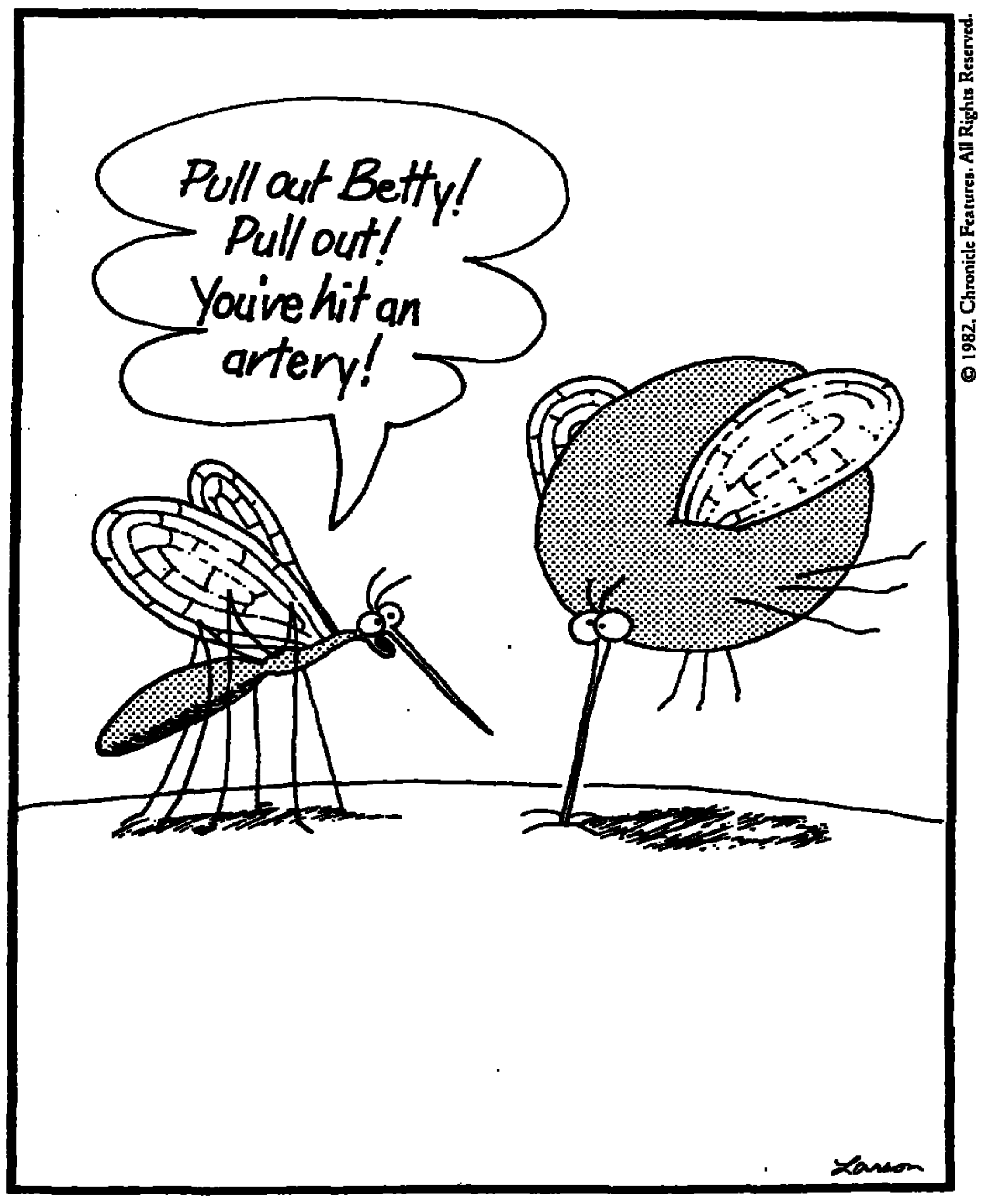
Pull out Betty! Pull out! You've hit an artery!
Larson
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 258 783				
Groland Amer	160.30	169.60	- 1.50	0.31
Groland Equity	226.50	241.00	- 3.20	2.95
Groland Euro	198.00	207.40	- 1.70	0.50
Groland Expr Bal	109.30	113.30	.	4.04
Groland Gilt	72.59	74.83	- 0.40	5.93
Groland Japan	154.60	163.60	- 5.40	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	512.70	545.50	- 8.00	2.93
General Inc	452.20	481.10	- 7.00	2.93
UK Growth Acc	345.80	367.90	- 5.40	3.00
UK Growth Inc	236.60	251.80	- 3.70	3.00
Higher Inc Acc	653.70	695.50	- 6.20	4.13
Higher Inc Inc	377.80	402.00	- 3.60	4.13
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	183.00	193.20	- 0.90	5.89
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	88.97	93.97	- 0.37	5.99
Nth America	263.50	280.40	- 4.80	.
Far East	323.10	343.80	- 3.40	0.35
Europe	267.50	284.60	- 0.10	0.90
Brit Excell	68.45	72.82	- 1.16	3.30
Brit Fndmtls Acc	98.23	104.50	- 1.20	4.91
Brit Fndmtls Inc	72.03	76.63	- 0.86	4.91
Global Opps	80.77	85.93	- 0.79	0.35
Balanced Acc	52.11	55.44†	- 0.60	3.15
Balanced Inc	50.85	54.10†	- 0.57	3.15
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	126.40	134.20	- 0.80	7.95
High Inc Equity	154.50	165.20†	- 0.60	4.75
Worldwide Bond	260.00	276.40†	- 0.10	5.50
Capital Growth				
American Growth	276.10	295.70†	- 3.50	.81
Asian Pacific	296.90	314.90	- 3.20	.
Assets & Earnings	247.50	263.30	- 1.90	2.96
Commdty & Energy	95.13	101.20	- 2.20	...
Euro Capital Inc	130.00	138.00	- 1.50	.70
(Accum Units)	138.80	148.40	- 1.70	.70
General	217.40	231.30†	- 1.40	2.35
Japan	112.90	120.70	- 3.00	.
Mastertrust	132.80	142.00	- 2.00	1.75
UK Growth Dist	112.30	120.00	- 1.60	2.88
US Emerging Cos	132.00	141.20	- 1.80	
Income & Growth	365.80	389.10	- 3.20	3.21
Ethical	84.36	88.47	- 0.53	2.99
International	107.30	114.10	- 2.40	1.12
Dividend & Growth	57.49	61.16†	- 0.38	4.59
Global Gwth & Sec	66.28	70.69		2.97
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	627.75	633.45		
Fxd Int Sec	147.85	148.20		
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0177 332 5000				
UK General Tst	59.65	63.45		
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	618.67	626.52		
Accum	£26.31	£26.50		
Fixed Int Inc	120.20	120.42		
Fixed Int Acc	187.69	187.95		
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 837 7667				
Intl Growth	111.69	121.79		
UK Income	99.51	108.51		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	75.02	79.51		
Beck Bio-Tech	26.92	28.89		
Acorn Ethical Tst	145.48	153.14		
City Fin Assets	65.66	69.85		
City Fin America	85.27	89.76		
City Fin Intl	72.17	75.97		
City Fin Japan	149.92	154.65		
Friars Hse Cap	261.10	281.99		
Friars Hse Inc	186.26	198.15		
Buckley Wrld Gth	118.13	123.54		
Fairmnt Cap Gth	129.47	137.73		
Fairmount Intl	142.01	151.07		
City Fin Pfilo Inc	51.55	54.84		
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.38	53.45		
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	55.84	59.72		
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.34	36.73		
Dragon Growth	62.98	67.37		
Equity High Inc	78.99	83.63		
(Accum Units)	105.70	112.45		
European Gwth	49.28	52.40		
Evergreen	27.09	28.87		
General Equity	78.98	83.78		
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	23.82	25.04		
Japan Growth	47.13	50.41		
Pedigree Gwth	47.49	50.52		
Pad Sm Cos Inc	28.66	30.49		

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smaller Cos	27.68	28.73	+ 0.31	.
French Growth	71.93	74.66†	- 1.06	0.36
Accum Units	77.17	80.10†	- 1.13	0.36
H Kong & China	72.29	75.03†	- 0.31	1.99
Intl Growth	54.22	56.28	- 0.74	0.70
(Accum Units)	54.68	56.75	- 0.75	0.70
Japan Gth	30.38	31.53	- 0.81	
Accum Units	30.38	31.53	- 0.81	.
Japan Smaller Cos	36.50	37.88	- 1.62	.
Glob Emg Mkts	86.86	90.16	- 4.30	..
Accum Units	87.48	90.80	- 4.33	.
SE Asia	294.70	305.80	- 5.30	0.51
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	51.79	53.35†	- 0.54	6.08

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	172.40	182.40	- 0.60	3.60
Smaller Cos	64.90	68.60†	- 1.30	3.25
(Accum Units)	129.30	136.80	- 0.20	3.25
Sterling Hi Int	23.90	23.98	- 0.21	8.77
Treasury	25.08	25.12†	- 0.02	5.90
Trustee	39.50	41.80	- 0.20	4.62
(Accum Units)	159.40	168.50	- 0.90	4.62
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	78.43	83.43	- 0.28	1.01
Intl Bond	60.79	63.92	- 0.35	6.02
Intl Equity Growth	67.15	71.43	- 0.35	0.74
N Amer Growth	92.99	98.92	- 0.86	1.12
Special Sits Growth	20.38	21.68	- 0.05	1.80

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
American Cap	131.30	139.60	- 1.90	..
Income	140.62	149.59†	- 0.78	4.08
UK Growth	51.88	55.18†	- 0.07	0.63
International	71.87	76.45†	- 0.18	0.08
Ecology	76.12	80.97	- 0.44	1.33
European	118.96	126.40	+ 0.32	
Far Eastern	279.50	297.30	- 2.40	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	48.11	51.18	- 0.45	7.52

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth	350.80	373.10	- 5.00	2.95
(Accum Units)	457.50	486.60	- 6.60	2.95
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	£12.32	£12.56	-12.70	3.20
Income #	929.80	945.00†	- 7.50	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	135.40	139.60	+ 0.70	4.27
MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD				
Dealings: 01438 747 414				

Shares end week on subdued note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	380½	Abbey Nat	436	- 2	4.5	14.7
314	233	Allied Irish	274	+ 4	5.3	10.3
278¾	171	Aus New Z	210	- 4	5.6	7.5
3300	2462½	Bank Americat	2987½	- 50		
247	172½	Bank Scotland	207	+ 2	3.2	11.7
640	487	Barclays	605	- 6	3.4	14.8
319	246	Br of Ireland	305		4.7	8.8
2912½	2262½	Citicorpt	2675	- 25		
285½	203	Close Bros	234	+ 2	4.0	10.6
£150½	£121½	Commerzbk	£143¾	+ 25	5.9	
1286¼	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1146¾	+ 37½	0.5	
£344¾	£270¼	Deutsche Bk	£306¼	+ 56¼	2.3	
1315¾	712½	Espirito Santo	712½		5.3	3.6
90	57	First Nat Fin	69		2.7	44.0
1549¾	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1252	+ 1	0.4	
473	208	Hambros	230	- 3	8.2	14.1
1113	589	HSBC	669	- 1	4.6	9.7
1133	578	HSBC HK	660		4.6	9.6
443	393	Joseph (L)	393		5.6	11.4
683	424	Kleinwort Ben	623	- 8	4.4	11.8
680	518	Lloyds	575	+ 5	5.8	9.4
620¼	472	Nat Aust Bk	495	- 10	7.0	
622	421	Nat West	490	- 6	4.9	9.5
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150		6.8	
79	53	Rea Bros	62		1.9	17.4
528	373½	Ryl Bk Scott	399	- 3	4.3	11.4
1574	1050	Schroders	1525		1.5	14.0
1458	1043	Schroders N/V	1365		1.7	12.5
114	75	Singer & Fried	85		4.6	10.9
959¼	223	Stand Chart	258	- 1	3.1	8.9
291	197	TSB	236	- 2	4.8	
1012	569	Warburg SG	726	- 3	3.8	13.3
£105	8612½	Wells Fargot	9881¼	- 93¾	3.0	
360	194	Westpac	236	- 2	2.5	
380	203	Wintrust	238		5.9	15.0

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1025	150	Ascot Hldgs	154	+ 1		
619	485	Bass	515		5.1	12.7
298	243	Boddington	246	+ 1	4.2	13.2
198	160	Burtonwd Brwy	171		3.7	14.3
181	142	Eldridge P 'A'	166		3.1	20.0
66	46¾	Fosters Brewing	55	- 1	5.1	14.0
493	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	338		2.9	14.0
517	399	Greenalls Grp	415	+ 7	3.8	13.7
584	452	Greene King	470		3.5	12.8
267	239	Hardy Hanson	250		4.5	12.7

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Leading novices clash in the Michael Seely Nottinghamshire Chase

Auburn Castle to bolster Arkle claim

By Julian Muscat

MICHAEL SEELY would have been sharply aware of Jimmy Fitzgerald's fondness for the two-mile novices' chase at Nottingham today. The former racing correspondent of *The Times*, whose name the race commemorates, was a close friend of Fitzgerald, and would have been perfectly placed to assess the race.

However, even Seely, with his boundless optimism, would have been hard pressed to advance the claims of Dual Image ahead of those brought by Auburn Castle and Dancing Paddy. Invariably, the trainer and his acolyte would have discussed the contest at length, when they might have mused about Dual Image's exemplary bumper form, now two years distant, and about his subsequent windpipe operation, which has apparently rejuvenated Dual Image.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AUBURN CASTLE
(3.20 Nottingham)
Next best: Uranus Collonges
(3.35 Newcastle)

But Fitzgerald, ever the realist, would have expressed reservations about the eight-year-old's inexperience over fences: the horse landed his solitary outing at Wetherby. Although Dual Image steps up in class here, similar circumstances governed Fitzgerald's three previous winners of this race. Phoenix Gold, Danish Flight and Sybillin, having gained their education in lesser contests, all made their reputations in the Nottingham event.

Yet inexperience alone will not be the undoing of Dual Image. Auburn Castle is equally raw; Dancing Paddy only marginally more seasoned. Ken Cunningham-Brown's charge came to grief before completing, unscathed, at Ascot three weeks later. And he could not have impressed more with his 14-length dismissal of Gales Cavalier, albeit in receipt of 8lb.

"My horse is in fine shape and will have no problems with soft ground," Cunningham-Brown said. "He had decent form over hurdles but he's going to be even better over fences. I think he could beat any novice chaser over two miles." His view is largely endorsed by the bookmakers, who quote Dancing Paddy at 5-1 for the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham.

That novices' championship has become the preserve of Jamie Osborne. Having landed the last three runnings, Osborne will be keen to establish whether Auburn Castle can extend the sequence for him next month. The signs were encouraging at Newbury last week, when Auburn Castle fenced like an old hand to dismiss Juleit Jones with consummate ease.

Oliver Sherwood, who trains the six-year-old, is excited by Auburn Castle's jumping. "I was delighted with him on his chasing debut," Sherwood enthused. "He is spectacular at home and it was good to see him do it at the races." Asked to nominate the one to beat, Sherwood said: "It's all about jumping round in these novice chases."

It may be worth passing over Osborne's words of caution in respect of Auburn Castle's long-term future. "Although he is a very athletic horse, I have to hope he makes up in jumping ability what he lacks in engine size. I don't think he is as naturally talented as my three previous Arkle winners." In receipt of 7lb from Dancing Paddy, he will not need to be.

JULIAN HERBERT

Cuddy Dale, given an enterprising ride by Fitzgerald, provides a royal victory in the Stag Handicap Chase at Sandown yesterday

Cuddy Dale himself demonstrated a great aptitude for fences at Sandown yesterday, when Mick Fitzgerald more than compensated for putting up 2lb overweight with an enterprising winning ride aboard the 12-year-old. Cuddy Dale is leased by the Queen Mother, who hopes to see the gelding successful in the Grand Military Gold Cup at the same venue next month.

"That was the practice round; now we have to keep him sound for the next three weeks," said Nicky Henderson, whose stable Cuddy Dale has joined. Indeed, should Michael Ward-Thomas, the amateur jockey, conjure the same enthusiasm from Cuddy Dale, there is every chance the Queen Mother will savour a record fifth Grand Military victory.

Rain relents to save weekend meetings

HOPES are high that the weather has relented sufficiently to allow a full programme of race meetings to go ahead in Britain today.

The biggest doubt is over the meeting at Chepstow, although Rodger Farrant, the clerk of the course, was optimistic. "After strong winds overnight and a dry day today conditions have imnproved dramatically and we are very hopeful of racing," he said.

"We do not plan any inspection but the going is still heavy and if there was any more rain that could obviously alter things."

There are no problems reported from the remaining three scheduled turf venues, with prospects at Newcastle described as "very good" by clerk of the course James Hutchinson.

Charlie Moore, clerk of the course at Nottingham, said: "We're expecting the odd shower and a touch of ground frost but envisage no problems with the going soft and good to soft in places."

At Windsor, where the going is heavy, they had a "brilliantly sunny day" yesterday according to a spokeswoman for the Berkshire track. There are no problems for the all-weather cards at Lingfield at Wolverhampton.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

1.40 Pond House	3.20 Dancing Paddy
2.10 Turner Prize	3.55 Large Action
2.45 Major Yaasi	4.25 Strath Royal
	4.55 Lottery Ticket

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.40 BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,574: 2m 5f 110yd) (20 runners)

1	40/40	ARCTIC RED 42 (Stainless Threaded Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 8-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	—
2	6P620-0	BLAYNEYS PRIVILEGE 67 (Skeltools Ltd) J Edwards 8-11-6	P McDermott	—
3	/4-U244	CHARTERFORHARDWARE 30 (Charter Racing Ltd) W Clay 9-11-6	R Farrant	73
4	FFP242	CHEEKA 49 (D Thompson) C Smith 6-11-6	M Ranger	75
5	0300-06	DISTINCTIVE 35 (J Hancock) M Wilkinson 6-11-6	J F Titley	—
6	P/2FFR3	DON'T BUCK 40 (G S Club) J Upson 8-11-6	M Brennan	94
7	6/30/	EJAY HAITCH 1498 (Mrs D Harris) S Harris 10-11-6	T Eley (3)	—
8	FP-2666	LOCAL MANOR 10 (B) (Mrs C Harrington) O Sherwood 8-11-6	J Osborne	92
9	3-2	MR SUNBEAM 7 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 7-11-6	J R Kavanagh	[illegible]
10	54/2-456	OLD FATHER TIME 31 (Mrs S Richmond-Watson) K Bailey 8-11-6	A Thornton	77
11	066/02-F	PENNINE PASS 10 (P Moore) D Williams 6-11-6	2nd pref	—
12	00-	POND HOUSE 311 (C Fleet) M Pipe 6-11-6	C Swan	—
13	63-00PF	PRIORY PIPER 16 (Mrs J Pickering) J Pickering 6-11-6	W Worthington	—
14	00-3205	SUNGIA 102 (Ms C Bravy) K Bridgwater 6-11-6	J Lodder	—
15	040-5P0	TALENT SPOTTER 78 (Mrs L Griffiths) K Bridgwater 8-11-6	Mr M Rimell (7)	—
16	00/0P0-U	THIRD SCHEDULE 10 (Miss C Fagerstrom) R Lee 7-11-6	M Richards	—
17		COOLVAWN LADY 280P (F) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 6-11-1	S Wynne (3)	—
18	P	CREW GIRL 64 (Mrs M Grant) J Webber 6-11-1	R Bellamy	—
19	00066/P	WITNEY GIRL 69 (R Yates) C Jackson 9-11-1	W Humphreys	—
20	06/P	YES WE ARE 23 (J Whelan) A Barrow 9-11-1	2nd pref	—

BETTING: 9-2 Mr Sunbeam, 5-1 Arctic Red, 8-1 Old Father Time, Don't Buck, 10-1 Blayneys Privilege, Pond House, Local Manor, 12-1 Cheeka, 14-1 others.

1994: MINERS MELODY 6-12-0 Mr J Greenall (8-13 fav) P Cheesbrough 9 ran

2.10 COLWICK PARK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,635: 2m 5f 110yd) (22 runners)

1	124116	MEMORABLE 33 (D,G,S) (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 4-11-10	D Byrne	95
2	21U110	TURNER PRIZE 36 (BF,G,S) (Newmarket Consortium) M Ryan 5-11-6	J Ryan	91
3	046	DO RIGHTLY 16 (J Fitzpatrick) M Bradstock 6-11-5	M Richards	88
4	3F3F10	PRINCE OF SALERNO 10 (S) (C Walford) N Gaselee 8-11-4	J R Kavanagh	95
5	30-F6	YES MAN 11 (Azzmok Winton Wright) Miss H Knight 6-11-3	J Osborne	89
6	065-464	HOLY STING 28 (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1	Mr M Rimell (7)	92
7	200P-52	JYMJAM JOHNNY 63 (BF) (The Jymjam Partnership) J Akehurst 6-11-1	J F Titley	[illegible]
8	3/00/4	FLYING MISSILE 197 (G) (J Rogers) A Jarvis 9-11-1	P Morris (7)	—
9	1-05104	BARNEY'S GIFT 54 (V,C,S) (R Marshall) O Brennan 7-10-13	M Brennan	94
10	6-436	KNUCKLEBUSTER 15 (A Brooke Rankin) R Fahey 5-10-10	G McCourt	89
11	2623	JATHIB 50 (Lou Giaracuni) C Williams 4-10-8	S Keightley	90
12	2U2113	ALASKAN HEIR 18 (G,S) (J Burton) A Forbes 4-10-6	T Eley (3)	92
13	4561	LOFTY DEED 39 (S) (Mrs P Linton) W Musson 5-10-5	R Farrant	92
14	113353	FAWLEY FLYER 47 (F,G) (D Chown) W G M Turner 6-10-0	M Griffiths (7)	93
15	36-4333	KADARI 30 (B) (H Clewlow) W Clay 6-10-0	Diane Clay	91
16	0P/404/	BELMORE ROCK 808 (Mrs A Hartnett) M Pipe 8-10-0	C Swan	—
17	00-004	IZACOMIN 30 (M Clarke) D Geraghty 6-10-0	P Ward (7)	85
18	60/3	VICTOR ROMEO 67 (P Evans) R Spicer 6-10-0	N Mann	—
19	PP-00	BACKSTABBER 30 (K Baker) Miss S Wilton 5-10-0	Gary Lyons	67
20	0P6U0-0	SHOCK TACTICS 31 (Duke of Devonshire) B De Haan 8-10-0	I Lawrence	—
21	P04P0/P	SMOKEBRIDGE GRAS 102 (Miss J Hodgkinson) W Turner 8-10-0	T Murphy (7)	—
22	24U-P6U	BALLYHAMAGE 75 (J Evans) J Evans 7-10-0	G Hogan (5)	98

Long handicap: Fawley Flyer 9-13, Kadari 9-12, Belmore Rock 9-10, Izacomin 9-8, Victor Romeo 9-4, Backstabber 9-0, Shock Tactics 9-0, Smokebridge Gras 8-13, Ballyhamage 8-12.

BETTING: 5-1 Turner Prize, 7-1 Memorable, 8-1 Jymjam Johnny, 10-1 Prince Of Salerno, 12-1 others.

1994: TRAVELLING LIGHT 6-11-10 Mr S Swiers (8-1) Mrs J Ramsden 16 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Glover	4	13	30.8	J Osborne	13	49	26.5
N Henderson	8	30	26.7	G McCourt	15	61	24.6
N Gaselee	5	20	25.0	R Farrant	3	13	23.1
D Nicholson	13	56	23.2	M Brennan	7	40	17.5
M Pipe	8	39	20.5	T Eley	6	42	14.3
Jimmy Fitzgerald	9	51	17.6	Only qualifiers			

2.45 ST ANNS NOVICES HURDLE
C4

(£3,662: 2m) (21 runners)

1	251	MAJOR YAASI 30 (CD,S) (P and S Partnership) J Glover 5-11-9	J Osborne	88
2		DORMSTON BOYO 14F (Mrs R Lowe) K White 5-11-3	V Slattery	—
3	0/44-5	GWEEBARRA BAY 43 (G Ham) G Ham 6-11-3	G Upton	73
4	P	LITTLE ROUSILLON 100 (Mrs S Greathead) T Greathead 7-11-3	W Humphreys	—
5	U2	MAJBOOR YAFOOZ 10 (Miss J Bodycote) J Bosley 5-11-3	M Bosley	[illegible]
6	214-0	OUR MAIN MAN 120 (S) (C Cooke) R Whitaker 5-11-3	C Swan	—
7	34-30	PRINCE NASHA 11 (S Pedersen) K Cunningham-Brown 5-11-3	A Thornton	—
8	0	RIVER HAWK 63 (Mrs P Robeson) Mrs P Robeson 6-11-3	M Richards	—
9		SAINT KEYNE 264F (Bedshire Components) D Williams 5-11-3	J R Kavanagh	—
10	5-P	SAVUTI 42 (Mrs D Tioper) M Wilkinson 6-11-3	G McCourt	—
11		SEIZE THE DAY 483F (D Pooley) C Broad 7-11-3	G Hogan (5)	—
12		SHARAAR 112F (M Olden) J Spearing 5-11-3	R Farrant	—
13		SPEEDY SNAPS MAGIC (POWTC Ltd/ Speedy Snaps) M Wilkinson 5-11-3	J F Titley	—
14		STYLISH BLAKE (J Doxey) S Bowring 6-11-3	L O'Hara	—
15	0	VANDERVALLY 10 (Miss L Wells) B Wells 6-11-3	J Da Costa	—
16		WILLERFOSS (M Saunders) B Rothwell 5-11-3	B Clifford	—
17	4104	ZAITOON 21 (D,G) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 4-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	76
18	P	BRUZ 16 (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 4-10-7	Gary Lyons	—
19		GLANMERIN 131F (R Norton) K Morgan 4-10-7	A S Smith	—
20	0	SHIFT CHANGEOVER 47 (Mrs S Birchall) S Mellor 4-10-2	Chris Webb (7)	—
21	0	SOTTISES 29 (Mrs J Martin) P Dalton 4-10-2	T Eley (3)	—

BETTING: 4-1 Zaitoon, 5-1 Major Yaasi, 6-1 Majboor Yafooz, 8-1 Our Main Man, 12-1 Seize The Day, Glanmerin, 14-1 others.

1994: DARK DEN 4-10-10 T Kent (9-4 fav) Mrs J Cecil 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAJOR YAASI beat Eulogy 15l in claiming novice hurdle over course and distance (soft) GWEEBARRA BAY 28l 5th of 6 to Fixtheresecretary in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy). MAJBOOR YAFOOZ 1½l 2nd of 12 to Supreme Master in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, heavy). OUR MAIN MAN best effort last term beat Stir Fry neck in National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5l 110yd, soft). PRINCE NASHA 6½l 3rd of 9 to Jultara in National Hunt Flat Race at Towcester (2m, heavy) on penultimate start. ZAITOON 25l 4th of 10 to Brave Tornado in grade II Finesse Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1l, heavy).
Selection: MAJBOOR YAFOOZ

3.20 MICHAEL SEELY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOVICES CHASE (Grade 11: £10,880: 2m) (7 runners)
C4

1	03-5041	DANCING PADDY 10 (D,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 7-11-12	C Swan	[illegible]
2	0-22141	DUAL IMAGE 14 (D,F,G,S) (Datum Building) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-9	D Byrne	73
3	P-31321	AUBURN CASTLE 8 (F,S) (Rashleigh Arms St Austell) O Sherwood 6-11-5	J Osborne	91
4	12U512	EASTHORPE 59 (D,BF,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 7-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	73
5	160150	HAWAIIAN YOUTH 10 (G,S) (G Redford) R Rowe 7-11-5	G McCourt	—
6	4-2F2U1	IN TRUTH 12 (G,S) (Mrs E Houlton) S Gollings 7-11-5	J F Titley	77
7	P03P0/P	GENIE SPIRIT 33 (Mrs J Powell) T George 6-11-0	R Farrant	—

BETTING: 6-4 Dancing Paddy, 7-4 Auburn Castle, 7-2 Dual Image, 10-1 In Truth, 20-1 Hawaiian Youth, Easthorpe, 66-1 Genie Spirit

1994: COUNTRY LAD 6-11-5 S McNeill (14-1) Mrs S Williams 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

DANCING PADDY beat Gales Cavalier 14l in 4-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m, soft). DUAL IMAGE beat Counterbalance 2l in 5-runner novice handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). AUBURN CASTLE beat Juleit Jones 13l in 6-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f, heavy). EASTHORPE beat Hangover 9l in 9-runner novice chase at Ludlow (2m, good) on penultimate start. HAWAIIAN YOUTH best recent effort beat Shared Gold 5l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). IN TRUTH beat Doradus 20l in 7-runner handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 1l 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: DANCING PADDY

3.55 CITY TRIAL HURDLE
C4

(Limited handicap: £5,738: 2m) (4 runners)

1	33-2111	LARGE ACTION 15 (D,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7-12-0	J Osborne	[illegible]
2	10F5-51	ARABIAN BOLD 108 (D,F,G,S) N Henderson 7-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	98
3	4-41465	MISTER DRUM 14 (D,G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 6-10-7	G McCourt	87
4	3-13031	CASH CHASE 12 (D,G,S) (S Ryan) O Brennan 7-10-7	M Brennan	82

Long handicap: Arabian Bold 9-8, Mister Drum 9-0, Cash Chase 8-2.

BETTING: 2-9 Large Action, 3-1 Arabian Bold, 25-1 Mister Drum, 33-1 Cash Chase.

1994: HIGHBROOK 6-10-7 A Maguire (15-8) M Tompkins 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

LARGE ACTION completed double beat Surrey Dancer neck in 8-runner limited handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to soft). Previously beat Flakey Dove 2½l in the 8-runner grade II Bonusphoto Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft). ARABIAN BOLD dead-heated with Square Silk beating Hashar 3l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton 2m, good to soft). MISTER DRUM best recent effort 14½l 4th of 6 to Kingsfold Pet in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). CASH CHASE beat Isabeau 4l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3l 110yd, good to soft)
Selection: LARGE ACTION

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

4.25 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER HANDICAP CHASE
C4

(£6,474: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	22F2F-3	ROUGH QUEST 115 (D,G) (A Wates) T Casey 9-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	92
2	6221P/0	SACRE D'OR 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 10-11-9	G McCourt	—
3	1102-2F	KENTISH PIPER 84 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs T Perkins) N Gaselee 10-11-7	J Osborne	90
4	211116-	BALTIC BROWN 320 (C,D,G,S) (J McKeon) Mrs G Smith 10-11-5	Gary Lyons	86
5	1-11211	STRATH ROYAL 30 (C,D,F,G,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 9-11-5	M Brennan	98
6	242221	BIBENDUM 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (R Waley-Cohen) R Waley-Cohen 9-11-4	J R Kavanagh	[illegible]
7	3PF0P-0	ICARUS 14 (B,D,F,G) (D Brown) D Brown 9-10-9	C Swan	88
8	22222P	ANDERMATT 30 (C,D,S) (The Marston Sept) J Mackie 8-10-1	J F Titley	93
9	P4U13-4	HERMES HARVEST 10 (G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 7-10-0	2nd pref	89

Long handicap: Hermes Harvest 9-4.

BETTING: 6-4 Strath Royal, 3-1 Kentish Piper, 5-1 Bibendum, 6-1 Rough Quest, 8-1 Baltic Brown, 10-1 Andermatt, 14-1 Sacre D'Or, 20-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ROUGH QUEST 33l 3rd of 6 to Crystal Spirit in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm) SACRE D'OR best effort beat Smartie Express 2l in 11-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4l 110yd, good to firm) with KENTISH PIPER (8lb worse off) tailed off 6th. In March 1993 KENTISH PIPER 5l 2nd of 8 to Midnight Caller in handicap chase at Newbury (3m, heavy) on penultimate start.
BALTIC BROWN completed four-timer last term beat Sirrah Jay ½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Southwell (2m 4l 110yd, good). STRATH ROYAL completed double beat Do Be Brief 15l in 10-runner handicap chase here (3m 110yd, soft) with ANDERMATT (10lb better off) pulled up 2 out. Previously beat ANDERMATT (20lb better off) 6l in 3-runner handicap chase here (2m 5l 110yd, good to soft) BIBENDUM beat Scole 1l in 7-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4l 110yd, heavy).
Selection: BIBENDUM

4.55 TRIPLEPRINT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,560: 2m) (21 runners)

1	1	LORD MCMURROUGH 16 (S) (M & N Plant Ltd) R Simpson 5-11-10	B Clifford	—
2	312	MANDICAT 59 (BF,G) (Mrs B Eve) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10	E Callaghan (7)	—
3	3	BUTTERCUP JOE 35 (R Fawes) D Nicholson 5-11-3	G Hogan (5)	—
4		CRAZY WEATHER (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 5-11-3	R Marley	—
5		DECIDE YOURSELF (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 5-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	—
6	22-0	DRUMMOND WARRIOR 120 (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 6-11-3	D Meade	—
7		KEEP IT ZIPPED (Mrs L Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 5-11-3	J A McCarthy	—
8		LORD LOFTY (Salarum Racing) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-3	J James (7)	—
9		LOTTERY TICKET (A Parker) J Edwards 6-11-3	J Osborne	—
10		MACS HERO (Mrs R Burrowes / Mrs P Stephens) C Smith 5-11-3	M Ranger	—
11		MONICASMAN (A Turnbull) A Jarvis 5-11-3	P Morris	—
12		PEACE LORD (Sir Peter Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 5-11-3	J F Titley	—
13		SHIP THE BUILDER (The Shipmates) R Fahey 6-11-3	G McCourt	—
14		SOCCER BALL (Newell and Co Ltd) T Watson 5-11-3	A S Smith	—
15		SPEEDWELL PRINCE (Bar Fortunes Partners) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3	Mr M Rimell (7)	—
16		SECOND FIDDLE (Mrs P Brennan) O Brennan 5-10-12	S O'Donnell (7)	—
17		ALLEXTON LAD (P Evans) R Marvin 4-10-7	W Worthington	—
18	4	BRAZIL OR BUST 11 (Miss P Zygmant) Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-7	D Thomas (7)	—
19		MONSOON PRINCE (Miss C Blott) J J O'Neill 4-10-7	A Roche (3)	—
20		POLITICAL PANTO (S Lucey) M Pipe 4-10-7	C Swan	—
21		SEE MORE ANGELS (Mrs A James) A James 4-10-2	V Slattery	—

BETTING: 5-1 Lord McMurrough, 6-1 Keep It Zipped, 7-1 Speedwell Prince, 8-1 Buttercup Joe, Lord Lofty, 10-1 Lottery Ticket, Brazil Or Bust, 12-1 others.

1994: CAVINA 4-10-2 L Wyer (6-1) N Graham 18 ran

☐ The versatile veteran, Sprowston Boy, was a popular winner of the Prince Carlton Handicap Chase at Fakenham yesterday, completing the treble of winning on the Flat, over hurdles and now, finally, over fences. In his prime, Sprowston Boy won the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Imperial Cup at Sandown, but this was his first success for three years. The 12-year-old could now be aimed at the Kim Muir Chase at the Cheltenham Festival.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.00 My Rossini	2.35 Benjamin Lancaster
1.30 Petosku	3.05 Treasure Again
2.00 Sun Surfer	3.40 Vicompt De Valmont
	4.15 Rusty Roc

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 **AIR SHOT**.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

1.00 PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE
BBC1

(Grade II: £8,190: 2m 4l 110yd) (6 runners)

1	3254F1	TEJANO GOLD 30 (S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 5-11-9	A P McCoy	85
2	05-511P	BETTER BYTHE GLASS 49 (C,S) (Bloodshot Synd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-6	T Jenks	79
3	350P0-2	DRESS DANCE 8 (Mrs J Powell) N Mitchell 5-11-6	Miss S Mitchell	78
4	3/P0-121	MY ROSSINI 42 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Eaton) P Bevan 5-11-6	T Wall	[illegible]
5	32	ROSMARINO 28 (R Howell) W Jenks 5-11-6	M Hourigan	94
6	2110-03	ST MELLION FAIRWAY 87 (S) (St Mellion Estates Ltd) J Old 5-11-6	T Grantham	76

BETTING: 5-2 My Rossini, 11-4 Better Bythe Glass, 4-1 Tejano Gold, 9-2 Dress Dance, 6-1 Rosmarino, 10-1 St Mellion Fairway

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS

TEJANO GOLD beat Tristan's Comet 2½l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, soft). BETTER BYTHE GLASS dead-heated with Maybe O'Grady beating Little Gunner 1l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 6l, good to soft) on penultimate start. DRESS DANCE 4l 2nd of 15 to Muntafi in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). MY ROSSINI beat Challenger Du Luc 8l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 6l, soft) with ROSMARINO (5lb better off) 12l 3rd. ROSMARINO ½l 2nd of 12 to Nahthen Lad in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 4l, heavy). ST MELLION FAIRWAY head and 9l 3rd of 19 to Givus A Call in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: MY ROSSINI

1.30 FLEDGLING CHASE
BBC1

(£6,766: 2m 3l 110yd) (4 runners)

1	U251F1	PETOSKU 7 (G,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8	T Jenks	90
2	21-2132	SPUFFINGTON 35 (G) (J Clapet) J Gifford 7-11-8	P Hide	81
3	41-1013	HOPS AND POPS 23 (D,BF,F,G,S) (The Happy Band) R Alner 8-11-7	T Grantham	[illegible]
4	066/02-F	PENNINE PASS 10 (P Moore) D Williams 8-11-4	P Holley	—

BETTING. 5-4 Hops And Pops, 7-4 Petosku, 2-1 Spuffington, 25-1 Pennine Pass.

FORM FOCUS

PETOSKU beat Mr Sunbeam 4l in 6-runner novice chase at Newbury (3m, heavy). SPUFFINGTON 3l 2nd of 9 to Master Boston in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5l, good to soft). HOPS AND POPS 2l clear when left last and remounted, tailed off 3rd of 6 to Medinas Swan Song in limited handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, soft). Previously beat Wadswick County 10l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4l 110yd, heavy) PENNINE PASS 6th fence faller behind Talbot in 16-runner novice chase at Ludlow (3m, good to soft).
Selection: SPUFFINGTON

2.00 M & N GROUP HURDLE
BBC1

(Limited handicap: £8,781: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1	2231-22	SUN SURFER 11 (G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 7-11-10	L Harvey	93
2	123-364	SHUJAN 54 (BF,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 6-11-5	P Hide	94
3	1P-4226	TOP SPIN 63 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 6-11-4	A P McCoy (3)	[illegible]
4	4110-PP	COURT MELODY 9 (D,G,S) (M Coburn) P Nicholls 7-11-3	R Massey (5)	—
5	1-41210	NICK THE BEAK 35 (BF,S) (Sir Nicholas Wilson) J Upson 6-10-7	T Jenks	87
6	034021	FOX CHAPEL 5 (B,D,G,S) (B Hise) R Juckes 8-10-7 (6ex)	N Juckes (7)	74

Long handicap: Nick The Beak 10-3, Fox Chapel 8-8

BETTING: 5-2 Sun Surfer, 11-4 Shujan, 3-1 Top Spin, 6-1 Nick The Beak, 8-1 Court Melody, 12-1 Fox Chapel.

FORM FOCUS

SUN SURFER neck 2nd of 8 to Ask The Governor in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4l 110yd, soft). SHUJAN 20l 4th of 8 to Trying Again in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft). TOP SPIN 5l 2nd of 9 to Fatack in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4l, good to soft) on penultimate start COURT MELODY best effort last term beat Love And Porter 3l in the grade III Brown Thomas novice hurdle at Fairyhouse (3m 4f, soft) April 1994. NICK THE BEAK beat Second Call ½l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5l, soft) on penultimate start. FOX CHAPEL beat Super Ritchart 4l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, heavy).
Selection: SUN SURFER

2.35 FLYOVER NOVICES CHASE
(£2,746: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1	6/0-P122	BENJAMIN LANCASTER 21 (G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 11-11-9	A P McCoy (3)	[illegible]
2	40PP2-P	COLONIAL OFFICE 58 (G Richards) Graham Richards 9-11-2	Mr M Rimell (7)	92
3	0/00/F-P	MANAMOUR 9 (W Rosell) R Lee 8-11-2	P Holley	—
4	FPPP-	ROUCHEAL 336P (Mrs J Hicks) B Millman 10-11-2	D Salter (5)	—
5	PPP/0P0-	SARAH'S WROATH 312 (Mrs V Stockdale) M Scudamore 10-11-2	D Meredith (3)	—
6	026232	SOVEREIGN NICHE 51 (BF,F,G,S) (Avalon Surfacing Ltd) M Pipe 7-11-2	M Foster	—
7	253P10	DOC COTTRILL 54 (S) (Bakers Arms Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-7	T Jenks	—

BETTING: 5-4 Sovereign Niche, 7-4 Benjamin Lancaster, 6-1 Doc Cottrill, 12-1 Colonial Office, 16-1 Sarah's Wroath, Manamour, 25-1 Roucheal.

3.05 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,458: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	2-51124	AIR SHOT 35 (D,G,S) (Mrs P Prowting) D Nicholson 5-11-10	R Massey (5)	[illegible]
2	3-0321	TREASURE AGAIN 16 (D,S) (J Gwynne) Mrs M Jones 6-11-10	A P McCoy (3)	87
3	05-0320	BUCKHOUSE BOY 11 (The Bawtry Boys) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	T Jenks	81
4	3-04224	FREDDIE MUCK 14 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	Mr S Joynes (7)	88
5	0U	LITTLE GAINS 54 (B Brazier) R Lee 6-11-0	P Holley	—
6	0	THE BOLD ABBOT 51 (Mrs A Horsington) P Murphy 5-11-0	E Murphy	—
7	00-6	VOLCANIC ROC 75 (M Davies) G Davies 5-11-0	G Tormey (5)	—
8	006-P	LYRICAL SEAL 33 (B) (Mrs J Dening) Miss A Whitfield 5-10-9	D Fortt (5)	—

BETTING: 7-4 Air Shot, 5-2 Treasure Again, 7-2 Freddie Muck, 9-2 Buckhouse Boy, 14-1 Volcanic Roc, 20-1 Lyrical Seal, 25-1 others

3.40 SNAFFLES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,647: 3m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	21U20-F	RUFUS 77 (B,D,S) (Mrs D Coleman) B Smart 9-11-10	L Harvey	87
2	5/12112	VICOMPT DE VALMONT 42 (B,D,BF,G,S) (J Blackwell) P Nicholls 10-11-10	C Maude	90
3	245133	JUDGES FANCY 42 (CD,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-8	T Jenks	87
4	415P-F4	LUCKY LANE 16 (B,D,F,G,S) (R Hamilton) P Hobbs 11-10-11	G Tormey (5)	81
5	P4U13-4	HERMES HARVEST 10 (G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 7-10-5	A P McCoy (3)	[illegible]
6	0/F3256	LARKSMORE 16 (F,S) (Miss D Baker) Miss D Baker 10-10-1	Miss S Wallin	90
7	041P-4F	THE PORTSOY LOON 63 (C,S) (Mrs E Crossman) G Thorner 8-10-0	P Hide	77
8	204216	ITS A SNIP 11 (B,D,G,S) (The Icy Fire Partnership) C Mann 10-10-0	—	85
9	0-44424	SUNBEAM TALBOT 40 (C,D,G,S) (Mrs R Legouix) A Jones 14-10-0	P Holley	88
10	6-P5543	DISTILLATION 51 (G,S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 10-10-0	S Burrough	64
11	PFP0P	ELECTROFANE 23 (Avon & West Racing Club Ltd) P Murphy 7-10-0	E Murphy	—

Long handicap: The Portsoy Loon 9-13, Its A Snip 9-8, Sunbeam Talbot 9-5, Distillation 9-0, Electrofane 7-6

BETTING: 3-1 Vicompt De Valmont, 4-1 Rufus, 5-1 Judges Fancy, 8-1 Lucky Lane, Hermes Harvest, Its A Snip, The Portsoy Loon, 10-1 others.

4.15 GWENT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,331: 3m) (7 runners)

1	06053/	TAMARPOUR 977F (F,G) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 8-12-0	—	—
2	24/P0-00	PRAGADA 10 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs M McGlone) R Rowe 12-11-4	P Hide	[illegible]
3	122/P	JONJAS CHUDLEIGH 24F (G) (Miss H Johns) W G Turner 8-10-12	S Burrough	—
4	12F-211	RUSTY ROC 54 (C,F,G,S) (M Davies) G Davies 14-10-0	A P McCoy (3)	93
5	24-0314	FORTUNES COURSE 49 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Garrett) J King 6-10-0	R Massey (5)	96
6	524350	RUNAWAY PETE 37 (F,G) (Perran Associates) A Barrow 5-10-0	P Holley	92
7	46-P	MASTER TUCK 42 (Mrs C Crozier) V Bishop 9-10-0	G Tormey (5)	—

Long handicap: Rusty Roc 9-11, Fortunes Course 9-10, Runaway Pete 9-6, Master Tuck 8-2.

BETTING: 7-4 Tamarpour, 7-2 Pragada, 9-2 Rusty Roc, 6-1 Jonjas Chudleigh, Fortunes Course, 12-1 Runaway Pete, 20-1 Master Tuck.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	10	32	31.3	M Foster	4	23	17.4
M Pipe	57	218	26.1	P Hide	3	18	16.7
N Twiston-Davies	16	75	21.3	T Grantham	3	21	14.3
R Alner	4	20	20.0	L Harvey	6	44	13.6
P Hobbs	13	72	18.1	M Hourigan	4	31	12.9
R Akehurst	5	30	16.7	S Burrough	4	36	11.1

Fantus needs Cup success

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

JOHN KEIGHLEY is one owner who is especially keen on winning the Coronation Cup at the **United Services** meeting today. He has already tasted success in the Cheltenham Foxhunters, with the ill-fated Rushing Wild, but in order to have a runner this year, Fantus has to qualify by winning another open race by next Saturday.

The Coronation Cup has been the coveted prize at the United Services since 1953 and usually attracts many top hunter chasers. On a number of occasions four divisions have been run but the advent of a January start to the season and two prior meetings at Larkhill, has reduced this year's entry to 32 and, for the first time in 42 years, the race has not been split.

Fantus, from Richard Barber's stable, won here under Tim Mitchell on the first day of the season, but it is Polly Curling who will be on board today. She is likely to have four other rides for the same stable including Cherrynut in the confined, and, making their debuts in divisions of the maiden, Harbour Of Love and Seemore Business.

Ten races are scheduled for the **Lincolnshire United Hunts**, run over the inside of Market Rasen racecourse. If Force Eight comes out well from the first division of the PPOA, he is likely to return here for The Times Rising Stars qualifier in three weeks' time. He won five of his six starts as a seven-year-old last season.

Sneakapenny, who has not been seen since winning an open at Horseheath in April 1993, returns today in the confined at the **Essex Farmers and Union**, where AJ's Boy, in the restricted, will be hoping to make amends for his fall at Kingston Blount.

The **West Shropshire**, which survived an inspection yesterday, has unusually split the ladies event as well as the men's open. Not so lucky weatherwise were the South Pool Harriers and the Vale of Clettwr, who are unable to race because of waterlogged courses.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Essex Farmers & Union, Marks Tey, five miles west of Colchester (first race 12.30): Lanarkshire and Renfrew, Lanark, Old Racecourse, (12.30): Lincolnshire United Hunts, Market Rasen racecourse (12.00), United Services, Larkhill, 3m NW of Amesbury (12.30): West Shropshire, Weston Park, 6m E of Telford (12.00).

Beta-blocker case nears conclusion

A JOCKEY CLUB investigation into the case of a horse testing positive for beta-blockers is nearing its conclusion.

A sample taken from the Tom George-trained Mobile Messenger, who won the Oak Novices' Handicap Chase at Southwell on November 25 last year, was found to contain traces of propranolol.

The effect of the drug, as with all types of beta-blockers, would be to slow down the heart rate, thereby alleviating stress, rather than to enhance athletic performance in the conventional sense.

Its presence in the system is certainly a mystery to George. "I have no idea where, when or how the substance got into the horse's system," he said.

Danoli frustrated as Harcon goes on trial

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

THE task of getting a run into their Cheltenham hopes is giving trainers plenty of problems at present. So tomorrow's meeting at Punchestown should offer some valuable pointers to the Festival.

Harcon, Dorans Pride, Sound Man and some promising novice hurdlers have a chance to shine, but after the postponement of today's Gowran Park card, Danoli's trainer, Tom Foley, has not been so fortunate.

A decision will be taken on Monday as to whether the card can be run on Wednesday but it is an anxious time for Foley. "If we lose Gowran, then we may have to go direct to Cheltenham," Foley said yesterday.

However, every drop of rain is to the advantage of Jim Dreaper's charge Harcon, who gets a Sun Alliance Chase sharpener in the IAWS Novice Chase tomorrow. This 17.2 hand giant must have cut in the ground and conditions should be ideal.

The Boyne Hurdle sees Dorans Pride take on Time For A Run and Ireland's leading staying hurdler should thrive on the ground.

The most interesting race, however, could be the Chapmans Novices' Hurdle final. Hotel Minella, impressive at Leopardstown last time out, is not being aimed at Cheltenham but will provide a good test for Ventana Canyon and Treble Bob.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.20), Edinburgh (2.10), Fontwell Park (2.00)

TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Carlisle (2.10), Warwick (2.00).

WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.00), Folkestone (1.40), Sedgefield (1.50)

THURSDAY: Lingfield Park: (AW, 2.15), Huntingdon (C4, 1.50), Wincanton (C4, 2.00).

FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Haydock (BBC, 2.00), Kempton Park (2.20).

SATURDAY: Lingfield (AW, 2.20), Doncaster (2.10), Edinburgh (1.15), Haydock Park (BBC, 1.00), Kempton Park (C4, 1.55).

Flat meetings in bold

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Uranus Collonges can tower above rivals

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: With Jim Old's string back to form, **St Mellion Fairway** can step up on his previous hurdle form to collect here. A leading bumper horse last year when he won on soft and heavy going, he is highly regarded by his trainer. My Rossini is the form choice judged on three solid performances, including his defeat of Challenger Du Luc at Haydock six weeks ago. Rosmarino will relish the conditions.

1.30: **Petosku** is best going left-handed and relishes the mud, as he showed when winning at Chepstow last Saturday. The step back in trip should not be a worry in this ground. Spuffington's best form has been on better going and the mud-loving Hops And Pops looks the main danger.

2.00: Nick The Beak was having his fifth race in little more than two months when disappointing last time at Cheltenham and, after a break, he should be thereabouts on this ground. However, **Sun Surfer** was a shade unlucky when beaten at Warwick 11 days ago, having been checked on the home turn before staying on strongly. That good effort followed a three-month rest and he won on the heavy going last year.

NEWCASTLE
C4

2.30: **Valiant Warrior**, an in-form course and distance winner, is just preferred in a particularly competitive handicap. His latest victory was boosted by the subsequent success of a runner 20 lengths away in third. Armagret is extremely well treated, running off a mark 21lb below that when winning at Ayr last April. However, his best form is over further, which is also true of the progressive Unguided Missile.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.00: Attadale is likely to be a warm favourite after an eye-catching run over an inadequate trip on his seasonal reappearance at Wetherby recently. Len Lungo's hope is sure to run well but **Home Counties** could offer some each-way value. After staying on resolutely behind the well-handicapped Amigos and Express Gift on his last two runs, he steps up in trip, but has won over a quarter-mile shorter. Mr Knitwit should go well.

3.35: Uranus Collonges is 6lb out of the handicap, but Jimmy Fitzgerald's giant chaser is strongly fancied to complete a treble. The out-and-out stayer should appreciate this marathon trip and the stiff finish. Tartan Tyrant, winner of his last five completed starts, is a big danger but top weight could tell over this extended four miles. Arthur's Minstrel bounced back to form at Wetherby last time, and has won four times here, but is far from certain to stay this distance.

4.10: High Alltitude boasts the best form, having been fourth to Morceli here last month, but is without a win for two seasons and is worth opposing. Countorus won well on his seasonal reappearance *but that was over* an extra mile and **Wake Up** can go one better after a promising chasing debut behind Newlands-General.

4.40: **Jalcanto** needed his latest run after a four month lay-off and Mary Reveley's Flat handicapper is open to further improvement over hurdles. The progressive Oat Couture must overcome a double penalty after two wins, while the useful House Captain has not raced for 87 days, which leaves Greville Again as the main threat.

NOTTINGHAM
C4

2.45: If **Majboor Yafooz** reproduces the form which saw him finish a good second to Supreme Master at Ascot ten days ago, he should oblige here. Major Yaasi won a poor race in the mud here last month and David Nicholson's Zaitoon *looks a bigger* threat. Our Main Man makes his hurdles debut after showing decent bumper form last term.

3.20: see facing page.

3.55: The front-running Arabian Bold should ensure a sound pace and tee it up for **Large Action** as Oliver Sherwood's Champion Hurdle fancy has his final racecourse work out before going to Cheltenham.

4.25: Strath Royal has taken well to fences and invariably runs well here but has been raised 10lb for his latest success. He may find life tougher over this shorter trip. Kentish Piper will relish the soft ground and is reported to be fit despite a lay-off, while Bibendum has improved with every run this term. **Hermes Harvest** was given far too much to do over an inadequate trip last time but has sound prospects judged on his excellent third in a good race at Ascot last season.

Old: Chepstow chance

RICHARD EVANS

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

12.55 Adjutant General
1.25 Talos
1.55 Pepitist
2.30 Valiant Warrior
3.00 Mr Knitwit
3.35 Tartan Tyrant
4.10 High Alltitude
4.40 **HOUSE CAPTAIN** (nap)

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.55 NEWCASTLE BROWN ALE TOP OF THE NORTH NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: div I: £2,585: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

101	12	ADJUTANT GENERAL 71 (BF,G) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-10	A Dobbin	88
102	2-12426	BLUE LAWS 35 (D,G) (Marquesa de Moratalla) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10	F Leahy (5)	[illegible]
103	143232	REBEL KING 21 (G) (M Barnes) M Barnes 5-11-10	G Cahill (7)	87
104	3060	ALICHARGER 15 (A Fletcher) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-4	R McGrath (7)	–
105	0	BLUE IS THE COLOUR 11 (R Green) C Parker 6-11-4	Mr D Parker (5)	–
106	P00-2	BRAVE AND TENDER 140 (Mrs A Taylor (Co Durham)) J Johnson 6-11-4	A Maguire	75
107	1-03	DON'T GEORGE 86 (F) (Mrs J Milligan) Miss M Milligan 6-11-4	Richard Guest	73
108		DRUMCULLEN (M Booth) K Bailey 6-11-4	N Williamson	–
109	44-0PP3	MOREOF A GUNNER 35 (Mrs A Hamilton) J Jefferson 5-11-4	L Wyer	72
110	4	NIKI DEE 21 (G Dilger) P Beaumont 5-11-4	R Supple	60
111	50	PROVENCE 14 (J Simpson) L Lungo 8-11-4	T Reed	61
112	005	SLOTAMATIQUE 77 (Slotamatics (Bolton) Ltd) G Richards 6-11-4	M Moloney	72
113	00-0603	TICO GOLD 14 (Miss S Turner) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4	P Niven	83
114	1-20	ELASTIC 42 (G,S) (Mrs D Cockburn) R Cockburn 9-10-13	Mr R Hale	95
115	13	ZAMHAREER 77 (C,G) (D Batey) W Storey 4-10-13	J Supple (5)	87
116	52	MARY'S FEELINGS 7 (Mrs L Dyer) T Dyer 4-10-2	Peter Hobbs	78

BETTING: 2-1 Adjutant General, 11-4 Blue Laws, 7-1 Rebel King, 8-1 Drumcullen, 10-1 Zamhareer, 12-1 Elastic, Moreof A Gunner, 14-1 Brave And Tender, Mary's Feelings, 16-1 others.

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

1.25 SHELDUCK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,035: 3m) (12 runners)

201	0P0-531	TEMPLE GARTH 29 (G,S) (Mrs J Wilson) P Beaumont 6-12-0	B Grattan (5)	90
202	31432-F	JOHNS THE BOY 114 (G) (N Mason) N Mason 9-11-13	J Supple	83
203	3/3011-5	SCOTTISH PERIL 18 (F) (Mrs V Watson) R Allan 8-11-8	S Melrose (5)	95
204	4613-10	GREAT EASEBY 14 (S) (D Batey) W Storey 5-11-6	R McGrath (5)	90
205	22/5/64	ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 14 (Mrs E Dixon) J Dixon 9-10-13	G Cahill (5)	95
206	21/82-F2	THARSIS 7 (D,F,G) (W Smith) W Smith 10-10-12	N Stocks (5)	93
207	15P1/5	CHILL WIND 16 (F,G) (E Daley) N Bycroft 8-10-12	D Towler (5)	–
208	300-431	TALOS 18 (S) (Mrs G Lister) D Moffatt 7-10-11	D J Moffatt	96
209	0-U4242	FIVE FLAGS 9 (BF,G) (A Toulson) Mrs S Smith 7-10-11	R Wilkinson (5)	97
210	0/602-34	EMRAL MISS 85 (R McAlpine) G Richards 7-10-10	B Harding	90
211	200304	WHITE DIAMOND 11 (D,F,S) (M Allison) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-9	J K McCarthy (7)	[illegible]
212	53-20P2	MANWELL 54 (S) (B Temple) B Temple 8-10-8	D Bentley	97

BETTING: 7-2 Temple Garth, 5-1 Another Fountain, 6-1 Great Easeby, 7-1 Manwell, 8-1 Scottish Peril, Emral Miss, 12-1 Johns The Boy, 14-1 others.

1.55 WIDGEON NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,470: 2m 110yd) (24 runners)

301	00-1P	FIXTURESSECRETARY 21 (D,BF,S) (K Manley) D Nicholson 6-11-10	A Maguire	91
302	122	FORBIDDEN TIME 21 (D,BF,S) (Mrs J Peatherer) L Lungo 7-11-10	T Reed	[illegible]
303	10	GENERAL COMMAND 71 (D,G) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-10	A Dobbin	78
304	0-61554	MONTRAVE 35 (G) (D St Clair) P Monteith 6-11-10	G Cahill (7)	89
305	0	DO LALLY TAT 70 (M Thompson) J Johnson 5-11-4	N Williamson	–
306	0F	GEMIKOSIX 14 (Mrs K Walton) Mrs K Walton 5-11-4	J Callaghan	65
307	0	LITTLE TUSKA 114 (N Mason) N Mason 5-11-4	J Supple (5)	68
308	RP-	LUCKER 322P (J Adams) D Eddy 8-11-4	B Storey	–
309	0	NORTHERN BLUFF 10 (Anne Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 5-11-4	P Niven	–
310	0	PREMIER FIRST 21 (Premier Trade Frames Ltd) J Hellens 6-11-4	A Larnach (3)	–
311	PP-	PRINCE BALTASAR 338 (G Allison) N Bycroft 6-11-4	D Towler (7)	–
312	0	REAL TONIC 70 (R Ogden) G Richards 5-11-4	M Moloney	–
313	0-	REEFSIDE 308 (Mrs A Gregory, Mrs E Peacock) G Richards 6-11-4	B Harding (5)	–
314		SUPERTOP 130F (R Gilbert) L Lungo 7-11-4	F Perratt (5)	–
315	0	YORKSHIRE SQUIRE 21 (E Robson) P Beaumont 5-11-4	C Hawkins	–
316	1310	SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 5F (D,G) (D Batey) W Storey 4-11-1	N Doughty	95
317	1BF	EHTEFAAL 157 (B,F) (A Fitzpatrick) J White 4-11-0	Richard Guest	81
318	P	CHANTRY BELLINI 14 (Mrs J Scott) Mrs S Austin 6-10-13	D Wilkinson	–
319	60	INGRAM VALLEY 103 (I Ives) D Moffatt 5-10-13	D J Moffatt (3)	–
320	000	PRICE OF GOLD 11 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 5-10-13	K Johnson	–
321		CURRENT SPEECH 106F (C Stevens) M H Easterby 4-10-8	L Wyer	–
322	45	PEPITIST 52 (The Gemini Partnership 2) M Hammond 4-10-8	Mr C Bonner (5)	85
323		SENSO 119F (Miss V Foster) J Wainwright 4-10-8	P Midgley	–
324		STASH THE CASH 119F (G Shiel) T Dyer 4-10-8	Peter Hobbs	–

BETTING: 7-2 Current Speech, 4-1 Forbidden Time, 6-1 General Command, Fixturessecretary, 10-1 Supertop, 12-1 Sunday News'n'echo, 16-1 others.

2.30 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£7,100: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

401	6221P/0	SACRE D'OR 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 10-11-10	2nd pref	91
402	651-206	NEVADA GOLD 54 (D,F,G,S) (Maltsword Ltd) F Yardley 9-11-6	W McFarland	96
403	0P/1-114	BELSTONE FOX 84 (BF,G,S) (Mrs M Sutton) D Nicholson 10-11-6	A Maguire	94
404	23-1421	UNGUIDED MISSILE 54 (D,G) (D Hamson) G Richards 7-11-1	A Dobbin	89
405	32221-3	CAMELOT KNIGHT 35 (S) (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-13	D Bridgwater	89
406	4-35463	ARMAGRET 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs R Wilkinson) B Wilkinson 10-10-10	D Gallagher	91
407	12PP-34	ONE MORE DREAM 112 (F) (M Jackson) Mrs S Smith 8-10-10	Richard Guest	91
408	3/111-3	MR WOODCOCK 88 (D,F,G,S) (P Tylor) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-6	P Niven	89
409	12-2P42	PERSIAN HOUSE 21 (V,D,F,G,S) (J Devenport) J Jefferson 8-10-5	L Wyer	98
410	21-3211	VALIANT WARRIOR 29 (CD,F,G,S) (P Sellars) M Hammond 7-10-4	D Bentley	97
411	325UU4	POLITICAL TOWER 15 (G,S) (G Nixon) M Barnes 8-10-4	B Storey	95
412	0-221P2	HOUGHTON 15 (CD,F,G,S) (G Brown) J Johnson 9-10-0	N Williamson	96
413	43P-451	REJOINUS 11 (V,D,S) (C Galloway) J Eyre 10-10-0	F Leahy (5)	[illegible]

Long handicap: Rejoinus 9-12.

BETTING: 5-1 Valiant Warrior, 6-1 Camelot Knight, Mr Woodcock, 7-1 Belstone Fox, Unguided Missile, 8-1 Persian House, 10-1 Armagret, 14-1 Houghton, Nevada Gold, Rejoinus, 20-1 One More Dream, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

NEVADA GOLD best effort this term 2½l 2nd of 3 to Greenhill Raffles in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
BELSTONE FOX beat Greek Flutter 12l in 3-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. UNGUIDED MISSILE beat Sparrow Hall 13l in 5-runner novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). CAMELOT KNIGHT 8½l 3rd of 9 to Crystal Spirit in handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good).
PERSIAN HOUSE 6l 2nd of 10 to Barney Rubble in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft) with ARMAGRET (5lb better off) 12l 3rd. VALIANT WARRIOR beat Boston Rover in 5l in 9-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 3f, soft) with POLITICAL TOWER (8lb better off) unseated rider 10th. HOUGHTON 1¼l 2nd of 7 to Clay County in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft) with POLITICAL TOWER (3lb better off) 14l 4th. REJOINUS beat Positive Action 13l in 4-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, heavy).
Selection: BELSTONE FOX

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J White	3	3	100.0	N Williamson	3	7	42.9
P Cheesbrough	9	36	25.0	D Byrne	9	34	26.5
C Parker	4	16	25.0	Richard Guest	3	13	23.1
Mrs M Reveley	19	81	23.5	Mr R Hale	3	15	20.0
G Moore	12	59	20.3	P Niven	24	121	19.8
Jimmy Fitzgerald	8	42	19.0	T Reed	18	98	18.4

3.00 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£7,555: 2m 4f) (19 runners)

501	P0111-5	ATTADALE 14 (CD,F,G,S) (C McGhie) L Lungo 7-11-11	T Reed	96
502	P2-12U5	BALLATEEN 52 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (E Madden) G Richards 7-11-7	A Dobbin	–
503	32-1311	MYSTIC MEMORY 92 (C,D,F,G) (Carnoustie Racing) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4	N Smith	90
504	520-313	CASTIGLIERO 73 (B,D,S) (J McCarthy) C Brooks 7-11-3	D Gallagher	98
505	2-05122	HOME COUNTIES 33 (G,S) (Rory Cinemas Ltd) D Moffatt 6-11-3	D J Moffatt (3)	98
506	F52114	BURNT IMP 14 (D,F,G,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Moore 5-11-2	J Callaghan	91
507	111-123	CHIEF MINISTER 98 (C,F) (G Shiel) T Dyer 6-11-1	Peter Hobbs	91
508	5-00443	PEANUTS PET 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (The Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 10-10-12	R Garritty	95
509	102304	HIS WAY 10 (F,G,S) (D Tindale) J Johnson 6-10-8	A Maguire	85
510	21120-6	FIVE TO SEVEN 14 (S) (The Five to Seven Partnership) C Thornton 6-10-7	D Wilkinson	90
511	/11/4P2	YOUNG TY 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (Dr J Robinson) Mrs M Reveley 11-10-6	P Niven	95
512	1F1124	NOTABLE EXCEPTION 84 (C,F,G,S) (Andrews) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-5	G Lee (5)	91
513	6-21F35	MARCHWOOD 59 (C,G,S) (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 8-10-3	Richard Guest	90
514	20212-4	COQUI LANE 15 (D,S) (J Dun) Mr J Dun 8-10-3	B Storey	[illegible]
515	PP2U10	NATIVE WORTH 14 (CD,BF,G,S) (Mrs M Barker) J Jefferson 5-10-1	L Wyer	97
516	025500	CHIEF RAIDER 14 (D,G,S) (J Wade) J Wade 7-10-1	K Jones	96
517	22/P-112	MR KNITWIT 52 (D,G) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 8-10-0	B Harding (5)	89
518	11F53F-	VAYRUA 315 (CD,G,S) (J Hellens (Contracts) Ltd) J Hellens 10-10-0	A Larnach (3)	–
519	2411-10	WEAVER GEORGE 21 (BF,F,G) (Regent Ltd) J Hellens 5-10-0	N Williamson	89

Long handicap: Mr Knitwit 9-12, Vayrua 9-10, Weaver George 9-8

BETTING: 6-1 Attadale, 8-1 Coqui Lane, Five To Seven, 10-1 Mr Knitwit, Young Ty, 12-1 Burnt Imp, Chief Minister, 14-1 His Way, Home Counties, Mystic Memory, Peanuts Pet, Weaver George, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

ATTADALE beat CASTIGLIERO (4lb better off) 1l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft) on penultimate start. MYSTIC MEMORY beat Cab On Target 2l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good). HOME COUNTIES 6l 2nd of 11 to Amigos in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. BURNT IMP beat Auburn Castle 1¼l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. CHIEF MINISTER 16¼l 3rd of 10 to Atours in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). YOUNG TY 4l 2nd of 14 to Heliopsis in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, soft) with PEANUTS PET (2lb better off) 2l 3rd and CHIEF RAIDER (3lb better off) 12l 9th. NOTABLE EXCEPTION best recent effort beat Imperial Bid 2½l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). NATIVE WORTH beat Noyan short-head in 12-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start with HIS WAY (7lb better off) about 27l 8th.
Selection: MYSTIC MEMORY (nap)

3.35 TOTE EIDER HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£16,177. 4m 1f) (11 runners)

601	P6U1-05	USHERS ISLAND 82 (F,G) (R Bowden) J Johnson 9-11-7	F Leahy (5)	[illegible]
602	11P-1U1	TARTAN TYRANT 42 (G,S) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 9-11-1	A Dobbin	91
603	243-24U	DAKYNS BOY 49 (G,S) (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-0	D Bridgwater	92
604	2-231F4	INTO THE RED 42 (CD,G,S) (J Huckle) J White 11-10-6	Richard Guest	91
605	014121	WILLSFORD 42 (G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-6	P Niven	95
606	344214	NATIVE PRIDE 35 (B,BF,F,G,S) (S Racing) K Bailey 8-10-2	N Williamson	94
607	2U-F321	ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 53 (C,F,G,S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 8-10-0	A Maguire	97
608	321511	URANUS COLLONGES 15 (C,G,S) (Hakewood Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-10-0	R Garritty	92
609	4P1P40	VIVA BELLA 16 (B,G,S) (L Froomes) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-0	Mr D Parker (5)	89
610	P/2PP-11	ABERCROMBY CHIEF 28 (G,S) (I Davidson) J Johnson 10-10-0	D Gallagher	76
611	P/0PP-62	MAJIC RAIN 16 (G) (D Tate) D Edd, 10-10-0	B Storey	63

Long handicap: Uranus Collonges 9-8, Viva Bella 9-2, Abercromby Chief 8-8, Majic Rain 7-0

BETTING: 11-4 Tartan Tyrant, 7-2 Uranus Collonges, 11-2 Willsford, 6-1 Arthur's Minstrel, 8-1 Dakyns Boy, 10-1 Into The Red, Native Pride, 14-1 Ushers Island, 33-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

USHERS ISLAND best effort last term beat Antonin 2½l in 12-runner grade III Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good). TARTAN TYRANT beat Cache Fleur 3½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, soft). DAKYNS BOY best effort this term 1½l 2nd of 6 to Gold Cap in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 3f 110yd, good to soft). INTO THE RED best effort this term beat Feathered Gale 15l in 9-runner handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good). WILLSFORD beat Vicompt De Valmont 6l in 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f soft) with INTO THE RED (7lb better off) tailed off 4th and VIVA BELLA (1lb worse off) pulled up before 14th. NATIVE PRIDE beat Bibendum 7l in 6-runner handicap chase at Kempton (3m, soft) on penultimate start. ARTHUR'S MINSTREL beat Clyde Ranger short-head in 4-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, soft). URANUS COLLONGES completed double beat Bluff Knoll 1½l in 9-runner handicap chase at Kelso (3m 4f, good to soft). ABERCROMBY CHIEF completed double beat Village Reindeer 3l in 10-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, heavy).
Selection: TARTAN TYRANT

4.10 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY NOVA NOVICES CHASE C4
(£4,547: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

1	144F4-1	COUNTORUS 18 (G,S) (M Thompson) J Johnson 9-11-9	A Maguire	72
2	0-22141	DUAL IMAGE 14 (D,F,G,S) (Daum Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-9	2nd pref	89
3	00P-4P	CARDINAL SINNER 92 (J Wade) J Wade 6-11-3	K Jones	–
4	203-24F	HIGH ALLTITUDE 14 (BF,G,S) (B Batey) G Moore 7-11-3	N Doughty	[illegible]
5	06/4-426	MAN OF MOREEF 98 (Colonel D Greig) J Oliver 8-11-3	N Williamson	50
6	F4/33P4	MILS MIJ 28 (F,G,S) (W Hurst) T Cumberl 10-11-3	T Reed	71
7	22/64P5	NADIAD 31 (V,F,G) (L Morgan) D McCain 9-11-3	D McCain	53
8	4034P/F	SPURIOUS 7 (H Catherwood) G Richards 9-11-3	M Moloney	–
9	146262	WAKE UP 53 (F,G,S) (S Hammond) M H Easterby 8-11-3	L Wyer	81
10	/P-50P0	EVE PET 15 (J Amsley) J Aynsley 11-10-12	K Johnson	51
11	0355-53	THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 11 (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 7-10-12	A Dobbin	–

BETTING: 7-4 High Alltitude, 9-4 Countorus, 5-1 Wake Up, 8-1 Mils Mij, 10-1 The Whirlie Weevil, 14-1 Man Of Moreef, 16-1 Spurious, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

COUNTORUS beat Big Mac 2½l in 14-runner novice chase at Edinburgh (3m, good to soft). DUAL IMAGE beat Counterbalance 2l in 5-runner novice handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, soft) with HIGH ALLTITUDE (8lb better off) in lead when fell 4 out. HIGH ALLTITUDE 19¼l 4th of 12 to Morceli in the grade II Dipper Novice Chase here (2m 4f, good) with MILS MIJ and EVE PET (2lb better off) both pulled up. MAN OF MOREEF 2½l 2nd of 10 to Flash of Realm in novice handicap chase at Hexham (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. MILS MIJ best effort this term 8½l 3rd of 6 to Golden Fiddle in novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, soft). SPURIOUS in touch when fell 4 out behind Another Red in novice chase at Catterick (2m, heavy). WAKE UP 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Newlands General in novice chase at Wetherby (2m, soft).
Selection: WAKE UP

4.40 NEWCASTLE BROWN ALE TOP OF THE NORTH NOVICES HURDLE C4
(Qualifier. div II: £2,574: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1	0-22121	OAT COUTURE 16 (D,S) (Mackinnon Mills) L Lungo 7-12-2	F Perratt (5)	91
2	12	HOUSE CAPTAIN 87 (BF,G) (G Middlebrook) K Bailey 6-11-10	N Williamson	[illegible]
3	04-6105	IMAD 50 (S) (A Brackley) J White 5-11-10	D Bridgwater	93
4	122	JALCANTO 16 (F) (W Davies) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10	P Niven	90
5	25-0	ABBEYLANDS 71 (C Heron) J Johnson 7-11-4	F Leahy (5)	61
6	00050-	BOB NELSON 338 (Mrs C Clarke) P Beaumont 8-11-4	R Supple	–
7	0	CANAILLOU II 42 (M Stanners) Mrs S Bramall 5-11-4	Mr D Parker (5)	–
8	P	CONTACT HELLENS 21 (J Hellens (Contracts) Ltd) J Hellens 6-11-4	N Doughty	–
9	000/06-2	EASY RHYTHM 16 (B Temple) B Temple 8-11-4	B Harding (5)	70
10	3P2	GREVILLE AGAIN 51 (Mrs H Clarke) D Nicholson 6-11-4	A Maguire	89
11	0-20	JACK DREAMING 15 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs S Smith 6-11-4	Richard Guest	82
12	20-022	LORD DORCET 29 (BF) (J Hogg) J Charlton 5-11-4	B Storey	85
13	0	NASAYER 113 (N Mason) N Mason 5-11-4	J Supple (5)	–
14	06	PARADISE ROW 16 (F Wilson) M H Easterby 5-11-4	L Wyer	–
15	06066	PARSONS BOY 28 (B Riope) G Richards 6-11-4	A Dobbin	–
16		YENOORA 142F (P Kelly) G Coatsworth 6-11-4	K Johnson	–

BETTING: 3-1 House Captain, 4-1 Oat Couture, Jalcanto, 6-1 Greville Again, 8-1 Abbeylands, 14-1 Imad, Lord Dorcet, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

OAT COUTURE beat Duwali Dancer 1¾l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). HOUSE CAPTAIN head 2nd of 14 to Givus A Call in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). IMAD best effort this season beat Lie Detector 8l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 5f 110yd, soft). JALCANTO 7l 2nd of 18 to Livio in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) with PARADISE ROW 49l 6th. ABBEYLANDS best effort last season 3½l 2nd of 10 to Reluctant Suitor in conditional jockeys' novice hurdle here (2m 110yd, good). GREVILLE AGAIN 2½l 2nd of 14 to Orswell Lad in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). JACK DREAMING 1½l 2nd of 15 to Lien De Famille in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft) on penultimate start. LORD DORCET 1¼l 2nd of 16 to Ingletonian in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft)
Selection: JALCANTO

WINDSOR

THUNDERER

1.50 Brandon Prince. 2.25 Oneupmanship. 2.55 Kissair. 3.25 Zeta's Lad. 4.00 Dwadme. 4.30 Squire Silk.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

1.50 KING JOHN NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,987: 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	6	AND WHAT ELSE 133 C Brooks 6-11-0	M Berry (7)
2	0-	BOY BUSTER 387 F Gray 6-11-0	M Crosse
3	3	BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 16 (BF) P Nicholls 6-11-0	C Maude
4	4532	BRANDON PRINCE 31 (BF) I Balding 7-11-0	J Railton
5	5	COPPER BOY 36 R Buckler 6-11-0	B Powell
6	00-P	SAN GIORGIO 119 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0	W Marston
7	P-2P	VERY VERY ORDINARY 63 (G,S) C Brooks 9-11-0	G Bradley
8	0/60	LUDOVICIANA 33 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-9	A Tory

4-6 Brandon Prince, 4-1 Copper Boy, 5-1 Bramblehill Buck, 10-1 Very Very Ordinary, 16-1 And What Else, San Giorgio, 20-1 others.

2.25 MAGNA CARTA NOVICES CHASE
(£2,921: 2m 5f) (6)

1	-064	CAMBO 59 (B,G,S) M Banks 9-11-3	D Skyrme
2	2-00	ONEUPMANSHIP 54 (G,S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 10-11-3	R Greene
3	5232	ROSGILL 38 (F,S) J White 9-11-3	P McLoughlin (5)
4	23/P	HALE'S MELODY 33 (S) Mrs P Townsley 10-10-12	Mr P Townsley
5	-4F2	SEASAMACAMILE 16 (S) R Buckler 8-10-12	B Powell
6	66/P	YES WE ARE 23 A Barrow 9-10-12	G Bradley

5-4 Oneupmanship, 5-2 Seasamacamile, 4-1 Cambo, 6-1 Rosgill, 14-1 Hale's Melody, 16-1 Yes We Are

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 4 winners from 18 runners, 22.2%; K Bailey, 8 from 46, 17.4%; D Gressell, 5 from 29, 17.2%; R Akehurst, 6 from 35, 17.1%; Mrs J Pitman, 7 from 42, 16.7%; G Balding, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Hourigan, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; M Perrett, 5 from 42, 11.9%; G Bradley, 3 from 26, 11.5%; J Railton, 5 from 47, 10.6%. Only qualifiers.

2.55 HATCH BRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£5,444: 2m) (8)

1	616	VICEROY RULER 54 (B,D,G) J Jenkins 11-2	W Marston
2	2	DOUBLE JEOPARDY 54 J White 10-12	J Railton
3	0524	KALASADI 11 Miss J Doyle 10-12	S Curran
4	31	KISSAIR 10 (D,S) M Pipe 10-12	J Lower
5	442	MELNIK 47 G Harwood 10-12	M Perrett
6		QUIET AMUSEMENT 169F K Bailey 10-7	S McNeill
7	00	SULIANA 37 R Buckler 10-7	B Powell
8		TRIPLE TIE 123F M Blanshard 10-7	G Bradley

7-4 Kissair, 2-1 Double Jeopardy, 5-2 Melnik, 10-1 Kalasadi, 14-1 Viceroy Ruler, Triple Tie, 20-1 others

3.25 FAIRLAWNE CHASE (£8,169. 3m) (4)

1	2F-5	ZETA'S LAD 58 (CD,F,G,S) C Brooks 12-11-12	G Bradley
2	4-PU	FEILE NA HINSE 93 (D,G,S) R Champion 12-11-4	M Hourigan
3	545P	L'UOMO PIU 37 (D,F,G,S) A Barrow 11-11-4	B Powell
4	F-36	ROYAL ATHLETE 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-4	W Marston

4-6 Royal Athlete, 6-4 Zeta's Lad, 12-1 L'Uomo Piu, 25-1 Feile Na Hinse

4.00 STAINES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,804: 2m 5f) (4)

1	3PP1	DWADME 12 (F,S) R O'Sullivan 10-11-10	B Powell
2	-525	GINGER TRISTAN 61 (B,G,S) D Grissell 9-11-8	J Railton
3	UP/	CASTING TIME 672 (F) R Akehurst 11-11-6	G Bradley
4	205U	FAIR BROTHER 30 (G,S) G Balding 9-11-2	R Davis

Evens Dwadme, 2-1 Fair Brother, 5-1 Ginger Tristan, 7-1 Casting Time

4.30 RUNNYMEDE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,511: 2m) (5)

1	6151	SQUIRE SILK 14 (CD,G,S) A Turnell 6-11-10	S McNeill
2	5/6-	DOC'S COAT 4F (D,F,G,S) C Wildman 10-11-1	B Powell
3	0323	TOP WAVE 23 (D,BF,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 7-11-1	R Davis
4	201	BLACKPATCH HILL 14 (D,S) N Tinkler 6-10-7	G Bradley
5	244-	CRABBY BILL 355 (V,D,G,S) Miss B Sanders 8-10-1	A Dicken

4-5 Squire Silk, 3-1 Top Wave, 7-2 Blackpatch Hill, 14-1 Doc's Coat, Crabby Bill

Blinkered first time

CHEPSTOW: 3.05 Lyncal Seal. LINGFIELD PARK: 2.20 Newington Butts. 4.20 King's Gold, My Lifetime Lady. NEWCASTLE: 2.30 Persian House. NOTTINGHAM: 2.10 Barney's Gift. WINDSOR: 2.55 Viceroy Ruler. WOLVERHAMPTON: 7.00 Pontynyswen

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Present Situation. 2.50 Avant Huit. 3.20 Prince Rudolf. 3.50 Gulf Shaadi. 4.20 Profit Release. 4.50 Ikhtiraa.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.50 **MR MACTAVISH** (nap). 4.20 Gallery Artist.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 DOROTHY L SAYERS APPRENTICES HANDICAP (£3,081: 7f) (9 runners)

1	31-4	PRESENT SITUATION 23 (C,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-10-0	A Whelan (3) 9
2	5-11	WORDS OF WISDOM 14 (CD,G) C Cyzer 5-9-11	S Mulvey 1
3	053-	GIGGLESWICK GIRL 260 (C,G) M Channon 4-9-11	P P Murphy (3) 8
4	-520	THE LITTLE FERRET 4 (D,F) G L Moore 5-9-9	L Suthern (5) 3
5	220-	MARY'S CASE 165 M Johnston 5-9-6	Oliver Casey (5) 5
6	5255	ORTHORHOMBUS 19 (B,F) D Cosgrove 6-9-1	L Newton 7
7	104-	COURTING NEWMARKET 117 (CD,F,G) Mrs A Knight 7-9-0	Sarah Thompson (5) 4
8	-460	FORGOTTEN DANCER 18 (S) R Ingram 4-8-13	S Drowne 6
9	2-00	NEWINGTON BUTTS 33 (B) R Akehurst 5-8-10	R Moogan (5) 2

7-4 Words Of Wisdom, 3-1 Present Situation, 9-2 The Little Ferret, 8-1 Courting Newmarket, Mary's Case, 10-1 Giggleswick Girl, 12-1 Newington Butts, 14-1 others

2.50 HELEN McINNES MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,539: 5f) (6)

1	03-0	HALLIARD 9 T Jones 4-9-10	R Perham 4
2	4-65	JUST JESTING 28 (V) G L Moore 3-8-9	S Whitworth 5
3	22-3	AVANT HUIT 39 Mrs N Macauley 3-8-4	Amanda Sanders (7) 6
4	0-05	BRANSTON KRISTY 8 C Smith 3-8-4	W Woods 3
5		FAIRLIGHT MAGIC P Haslam 3-8-4	Nicola Howarth (7) 1
6	433-	LA SUQUET 136 M Channon 3-8-4	C Rutter 2

2-1 Avant Huit, 11-4 La Suquet, 3-1 Halliard, 5-1 Just Jesting, 10-1 Fairlight Magic, 14-1 Branston Kristy

3.20 GEORGETTE HEYER CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,663: 7f) (5)

1		CALL TOPHORSE P Haslam 8-7	J Weaver 5
2	-301	ROBO MAGIC 17 (C) A Moore 8-7	R Cochrane 1
3	5-22	IRIE MON 21 J Hills 8-6	M Henry (7) 4
4	3243	PRINCE RUDOLF 9 (V,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-4	M Fenton 3
5	156-	FIRST CRUSH 60 (D,F) M Prescott 8-2	G Duffield 2

7-4 Robo Magic, 11-4 First Crush, 100-30 Irie Mon, 11-2 Prince Rudolf, 6-1 Call Tophorse

3.50 EVELYN ANTHONY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,550: 1m 2f) (8)

1	-113	GULF SHAADI 9 (C,BF,G) C Brittain 9-7	B Doyle 2
2	-214	KOMREYEV DANCER 10 (G) A Bailey 9-5	T Ives 7
3	3121	NIGEL'S LAD 18 (CD,G) P Haslam 8-11	J Weaver 4
4	2213	PERSIAN CONQUEST 7 (B,CD,G) R Ingram 8-9	W Woods 1
5	30-1	MR MACTAVISH 28 (G) Mrs J Cecil 8-9	A Clark 3
6	6-13	CONTRAFIRE 24 (G) W Jarvis 8-5	S Sanders (3) 6
7	-441	STAR FIGHTER 4 (CD,G) W O'Gorman 8-2 (5ex)	D Harrison 5
8	22-1	TRIBAL PEACE 7 (CD,G) B Gubby 8-1	J Stack (5) 8

7-2 Komreyev Dancer, 4-1 Nigel's Lad, 9-2 Gulf Shaadi, 5-1 Mr Mactavish, 6-1 Star Fighter, Tribal Peace, 7-1 Contrafire, 10-1 Persian Conquest.

4.20 AGATHA CHRISTIE SELLING STAKES
(£2,505: 1m) (12)

1	0-06	ADMIRALS FLAME 9 (D,S) C Wall 4-9-0	G Duffield 5
2	40-0	DOODIES POOL 14 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-9-0	S Whitworth 1
3	2340	EASTLEIGH 18 (CD,BF,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-9-0	T Ives 2
4	00-3	GALLERY ARTIST 23 (CD,G,S) R Guest 7-9-0	C Hawksley (5) 8
5	0/6	KING'S GOLD 44 (B) T Jones 5-9-0	R Perham 6
6	/00-	PREDICTABLE 116J (CD,G) Mrs A Knight 9-9-0	S Drowne (5) 9
7	-000	SCOTS LAW 7 (B,CD,F,G) J Long 8-9-0	N Adams 7
8	0-00	ARAWA 14 (G) D Marks 5-8-9	M Baird (5) 12
9	000-	FIABA 94 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-9	Amanda Sanders (7) 10
10	0-06	MY LIFETIME LADY 14 (B,F,S) K Ivory 4-8-9	C Scally (7) 4
11	4233	PROFIT RELEASE 8 (F) M Johnston 4-8-9	R Cochrane 3
12	2-53	SHARP GAZELLE 14 (D,F) B Smart 5-8-9	D Harrison 11

9-4 Gallery Artist, 3-1 Profit Release, 9-2 Admirals Flame, 5-1 Sharp Gazelle, 8-1 Doodies Pool, 10-1 Arawa, Eastleigh, 12-1 others

4.50 MARGERY ALLINGHAM HANDICAP
(£3,556: 1m 4f) (9)

1	61-0	RAPPORTEUR 16 (CD,F,G,S) C C Elsey 9-10-0	C Rutter 2
2	100-	MAGIC TIMES 177 (D,G) M Johnston 4-9-8	T Williams 6
3	10-3	PRINCELY GAIT 14 (C,G) C Cyzer 4-9-7	T Ives 1
4	-133	THALEROS 10 (D,G) G Moore 5-9-7	A Clark 8
5	6233	BAG OF TRICKS 16 (B) S Dow 5-9-3	T Quinn 3
6	21-4	IKHTIRAA 10J (C,D,G,S) R O'Sullivan 5-9-1	J Weaver 7
7	0-00	BURES 8 (V,D,F) M Tompkins 4-8-12	S Mulvey (5) 5
8	2324	IN THE MONEY 11 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-8-12	R Cochrane 4
9	3112	HEAD TURNER 11 (CD,BF,G,S) C Wildman 7-8-8	N Adams 9

3-1 Head Turner, 7-2 Princely Gait, 9-2 Thaleros, 5-1 Bag Of Tricks, 6-1 Ikhtiraa, 8-1 Rapporteur, In The Money, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jarvis, 7 winners from 29 runners, 24.1%; Mrs J Cecil, 3 from 13, 23.1%; Lord Huntingdon, 28 from 130, 21.5%; M Prescott, 18 from 84, 21.4%; W O'Gorman, 34 from 169, 20.1%; C Brittain, 20 from 101, 19.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 37 winners from 161 rides, 23.0%; Amanda Sanders, 4 from 18, 22.2%; L Suthern, 4 from 18, 22.2%; G Duffield, 23 from 112, 20.5%; T Quinn, 49 from 259, 18.9%; R Cochrane, 27 from 168, 16.1%

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Pontynyswen. 7.30 Very Dicey. 8.00 Primula Bairn. 8.30 Quinzii Martin. 9.00 Off The Air. 9.30 Grand Selection.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
9.30 Grand Selection.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 DALMATION AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,537: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

1	-644	LET'S GET LOST 19 (F,S) J A Harris 6-11-7	J Aplafi (7) 10
2	06-2	FIRST CENTURY 5J (B,G) M Pipe 6-11-2	J Durkan 8
3	6-13	LONG FURLONG 25 (D,F,G) J Bosley 7-10-11	Mrs S Bosley (4) 4
4	30-0	SERAPHIC 31 B Cambidge 4-10-10	J Cambidge 9
5	00-0	KISMETIM 12 (CD,G) F Jordan 5-10-4	L Squire (4) 1
6	03-4	MR BEAN 44 (CD,G) K Burke 5-10-2	Mrs E Burke (7) 5
7	200-	ROCKY BAY 10J (C,G,S) B Llewellyn 6-10-1	J L Llewellyn 12
8	-615	COMTEC'S LEGEND 10 (CD,F,G) J Bottomley 5-9-12	Mrs L Pearce 11
9	/00-	PONTYNYSWEN 54J (B) D Burchell 7-9-9	Miss E J Jones (7) 6
10	0-06	REGAL RAMBLER 19 (B) L Barratt 4-9-8	Miss Diana Jones 7
11	40-0	GUNMAKER 5J B Llewellyn 6-9-7	Mrs Beth Williams (4) 3
12	0-53	ANN HILL 7 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-6	Miss J Southall (4) 2

5-2 First Century, 7-2 Long Furlong, 9-2 Comtec's Legend, 6-1 Ann Hill, 8-1 Let's Get Lost, 10-1 Regal Rambler, 12-1 others.

7.30 COLLIE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,433: 5f) (10)

1	-543	FARFELU 16 (B,D,F,G) W Muir 8-9-11	J Weaver 7
2	-162	VERY DICEY 17 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-5	P Fessey (7) 6
3	000-	SIGAMA 141 (D,F) D Nicholls 9-9-3	Alex Greaves 8
4	5-03	SISON 14 (D,G) K Wingrove 5-9-3	J McLaughlin 3
5	00-0	HENRY THE HAWK 36 (V) M Dods 4-9-1	J Stack (5) 4
6	-236	POLY LAUREON 17 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 3-8-6	G Carter 5
7	5323	SUPERBIT 8 (B) B McMahon 3-8-6	S Sanders (3) 2
8	0-56	IVY LILIAN 17 W Brisbourne 3-8-0	A Garth (5) 10
9	0-05	PRECIOUS TIMES 28 M Meagher 3-7-12	J Quinn 1
10	6-06	BENTEN 8 D Nicholls 3-7-7	N Varley (5) 9

3-1 Sison, 100-30 Farfelu, 7-2 Very Dicey, 11-2 Poly Laureon, 6-1 Superbit, 12-1 Sigama, 16-1 Henry The Hawk, 20-1 others.

8.00 LURCHER LIMITED STAKES
(£2,433: 6f) (10)

1	10-0	CURIE CRUSADER 33 (S) M Dods 4-9-9	W Woods 4
2	4225	FARNDALE 16 (CD,G) J Berry 8-9-9	C Lowther (7) 2
3	020-	THE INSTITUTE BOY 109 (D,G) Miss J Craze 5-9-9	S Webster 3
4	-511	PRIMULA BAIRN 17 (V,C,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-8	J Weaver 9
5	4-00	CAHERASS COURT 28 B Preece 4-9-4	A Eddery (7) 7
6	-433	HEATHYARDS LADY 14 (CD,BF,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-4	T Ives 1
7	0-00	VICTORIA HALL 12 (V) W G M Turner 5-9-4	G Duffield 10
8	3116	WHITTINGHAM GIRL 4 (CD,G) J Berry 3-8-5	G Carter 8
9	-324	JALMAID 12 (BF) B McMahon 3-8-2	S Sanders (3) 5
10	-644	PATS DELIGHT 17 S Coathup 3-8-2	T Williams 6

5-2 Primula Bairn, 7-2 Whittingham Girl, 5-1 Jalmaid, 6-1 Caherass Court, 13-2 Heathyards Lady, 9-1 The Institute Boy, 12-1 others.

8.30 AIREDALE HANDICAP (£2,788: 7f) (9)

1	534-	TIMELY EXAMPLE 68J B Cambidge 4-10-0	T Ives 6
2	-031	ZIGGY'S DANCER 17 (CD,G) E Alston 4-9-9	J Weaver 7
3	0-05	JON'S CHOICE 10 (CD,G) B Preece 7-9-7	T Wall 2
4	1021	QUINZII MARTIN 12 (CD,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-3	T Williams 3
5	00-5	FIGHTER SQUADRON 14 (B,D,F,G,S) R Peacock 6-8-12	G Duffield 9
6	00-5	GREATEST 23 (D,BF,F) R Akehurst 4-8-12	G Carter 4
7	40-3	DYNAMIS 14 K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-7	R Cochrane 1
8	000-	CRONK'S COURAGE 138 (V,F,G,S) M Meagher 9-8-2	J Quinn 5
9	-002	TILLY OWL 12 (CD,G) J A Harris 4-8-0	J O'Reilly 8

9-4 Quinzii Martin, 11-4 Tilly Owl, 7-2 Ziggy's Dancer, 5-1 Greatest, 10-1 Fighter Squadron, 12-1 Dynamis, 14-1 Timely Example, 16-1 others.

9.00 DOBERMAN SELLING STAKES
(£2,085: 1m 1f 79yd) (12)

1	-500	BALLYHAYS 5 (C,G) J A Harris 6-9-5	S D Williams 9
2	-215	SALBUS 17 (V,C,G) F Yardley 5-9-5	G Duffield 6
3	0-33	PUFFY 36 (V,F,G,S) M Dods 8-9-0	W Woods 2
4	4-06	SOBA GUEST 9 (C,F,G,S) R Juckes 6-9-0	S Drowne (5) 4
5	0-6	BINLABOON 8 (B) K Wingrove 4-8-13	J McLaughlin 10
6	-050	MAKE THE BREAK 14 (B,F,G) S Coathup 4-8-13	T Williams 5
7	1441	OFF THE AIR 14 (V,CD,G,S) I Campbell 4-8-13	R Cochrane 8
8	-040	WARHURST 29 (G) D Nicholls 4-8-13	Alex Greaves 1
9		IVORY QUEEN 11J M Pipe 5-8-9	– 11
10		EGLWYS NEWYDD K Bridgwater 4-8-8	N Carlisle 3
11	3024	SLIP A COIN 17 (BF) R Hollinshead 4-8-8	T Ives 12
12	-050	T O D MAMMA'S 3 (CD,F,G) J Berry 4-8-8	P Roberts (7) 7

3-1 Off The Air, 9-2 Slip A Coin, 5-1 Salbus, 11-2 Make The Break, 6-1 Puffy, 7-1 Warhurst, 8-1 Soba Guest, 10-1 others.

9.30 LABRADOR HANDICAP
3-Y-O: £2,684: 1m 100yd) (4)

1	1211	GRAND SELECTION 7 (CD,G) M Bell 9-7	M Fenton 4
2	01-0	SHY PADDY 39 (C,G) K Cunningham-Brown 8-12	J Weaver 3
3	-120	OUR TOM 15 (C,G) J Wharton 8-10	J Quinn 1
4	5-25	VINDALOO 7 M Johnston 7-7	N Carlisle 2

Evens Grand Selection, 3-1 Vindaloo, 9-2 Shy Paddy, 5-1 Our Tom.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Bottomley, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; M Johnston, 20 from 67, 29.9%; J Berry, 19 from 111, 17.1%; J Harris, 3 from 19, 15.8%; W G M Turner, 3 from 26, 11.5%; B McMahon, 9 from 85, 10.6%.

JOCKEYS: W Woods, 5 winners from 15 rides, 33.3%; J Weaver, 40 from 157, 25.5%; G Duffield, 10 from 43, 23.3%; R Cochrane, 11 from 66, 16.7%; S D Williams, 6 from 47, 12.8%. No other qualifiers.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: heavy

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Killone Abbot (J Osborne, 4-1), 2, Fionans Flutter (16-1); 3, Major Summit (13-8 fav). 12 ran. NR: Red Channel, Stone Bramble. 7l, 2½l. J Old. Tote: £4.60; £1.40, £3.10, £1.40. DF: £48.40. CSF: £55.85.

2.00 (3m ch) 1, Bold Choice (J Frost, 9-4), 2, Mister Oddy (2-1 fav), 3, Fibreel (9-4). 4 ran. 1¼l, 5l. R Frost. Tote: £3.20. DF: £3.70. CSF: £6.45.

2.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Cuddy Dale (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1), 2, Flyer's Nap (3-1 fav), 3, Avonburn (7-1). 8 ran. 5l, 30l. N Henderson. Tote: £6.40; £1.60, £1.60, £2.70. DF: £12.00. CSF: £26.65. Tricast: £138.42.

3.10 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Jadidh (D Salter, 6-1), 2, Warfield (11-2), 3, It's Not My Fault (13-2). Landed Gentry 5-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Spirit In The Nite. 3l, 12l. C Wildman. Tote: £7.00; £2.00, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £15.20. Trio: £17.10. CSF: £33.83. Tricast: £183.85.

3.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Kadi (A Maguire, Evens fav); 2, Spartan Silver (11-4), 3, Brave Highlander (6-1). 5 ran. ¾l, dist. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £1.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.04.

4.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Leavenworth (A P McCoy, 7-2), 2, Sayyure (7-1), 3, Secret Four (3-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Badrakhani. 1¼l, 2½l. Mrs J Retter. Tote: £4.40; £1.10, £3.50, £1.50. DF: £27.90. CSF: £26.61.

4.50 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Supreme Genotin (T Grantham, 5-2 fav), 2, Camp Bank (14-1), 3, Jullara (13-2). 18 ran. NR: Nothings Forever. 7l, 11l. J Old. Tote: £4.70; £1.60, £3.60, £3.10. DF: £24.20. CSF: £38.15.

Placepot: £69.30. Quadpot: £11.60.

Fakenham

Going: good to soft (good in places)

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Daily Sport Girl (Mr J L Llewellyn, 6-1); 2, Water Diviner (20-1); 3, Lambson (16-1), 4, Alosaili (11-1). Desert President 2-1 fav (pu). 16 ran. 9l, 2l. B Llewellyn. Tote: £7.40; £2.10, £4.90, £3.70, £2.90. DF: £146.90. Trio: not won (pool of £677.92 carried forward to 3.35 at Newcastle today). CSF: £125.79. Tricast: £1,742.23.

2.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Sprowston Boy (W Worthington, 9-4), 2, Impeccable Timing (11-2), 3, Charlton Yeoman (7-1). Over The Stream Evens fav (pu). 6 ran. NR: One More Run, Try Next Door. Nk, dist. M Chapman. Tote: £3.20; £1.70, £3.40. DF: £8.50. CSF: £14.27. Tricast: £68.66.

3.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Lead Vocalist (D O'Sullivan, 2-1 fav), 2, Lien De Famille (9-2); 3, Lodestone Lad (16-1). 14 ran. 5l, 3½l. R Rowe. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £1.70, £4.20. DF: £6.20. CSF: £12.34.

3.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Fast Thoughts (R Farrant, 4-5 fav), 2, Touch Of Winter (6-4); 3, Cappuccino Girl (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Ile De Soo. 1l, 25l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.52.

4.25 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Itsgoneoff (Mr T Marks, 11-4); 2, Sandybraes (9-4), 3, Espy (5-1). Sheer Jest 2-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Fairfield's Breeze. Nk, 20l. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £5.80. CSF: £9.40.

4.55 (2m hdle) 1, Pinecone Peter (M Brennan, 9-2); 2, Elegant Friend (14-1), 3, Wordy's Wonder (9-1); 4, Lumumba Days (9-2). Eskimo Nel 5-2 fav. 16 ran. Nk, 7l. O Brennan. Tote: £4.50; £1.10, £2.30, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £31.40. Trio: £111.60. CSF: £79.25. Tricast: £552.47.

Placepot: £74.50. Quadpot: £10.30.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.50 (1m 3f) 1, Fen Terrier (W Woods, 4-1), 2, Hever Golf Lady (3-1 fav), 3, Fools Of Pride (10-1). 12 ran. ½l, 6l. W Haggas. Tote: £5.80; £1.10, £1.60, £2.90. DF: £7.10. Trio: £26.10. CSF: £15.36. Tricast: £92.48. Something Speedy (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

2.25 (1m) 1, No Submission (L Detton, 3-4 fav); 2, Battle Colours (9-2), 3, Shuttlecock (3-1). 6 ran. NR: Warm Toes. 3½l, hd. D Chapman. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £3.60. CSF: £11.57.

2.55 (7f) 1, Posted Abroad (G Duffield, Evens fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap), 2, Three Arch Bridge (16-1), 3, Speedy Snaps Pride (33-1). 7 ran. Hd, 3l. M Prescott. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £5.10. DF: £18.50. CSF: £15.61.

3.30 (2m) 1, La Menorquina (M Baird, 14-1); 2, Nahri (11-2); 3, Risky Tu (11-2). 13 ran. Hd, 4l. D Marks. Tote: £17.30; £3.00, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £29.10. Trio: £125.60. CSF: £89.32. Tricast: £449.20.

4.00 (1m 4f) 1, Red Indian (Dean McKeown, 5-1); 2, Mad Militant (Evens fav); 3, Aviator's Dream (12-1). 6 ran. Nk, 13l. W Haigh. Tote: £7.30; £2.20, £1.30. DF: £5.40. CSF: £10.21.

4.30 (6f) 1, White Sorrel (J Stack, 6-1); 2, Bella Parkes (8-1); 3, Aljaz (7-1). Chadwell Hall 7-2 jt-fav. 9 ran. 1l, sh hd. J Eyre. Tote: £10.00; £3.90, £3.10, £2.00. DF: £48.10. Trio: £175.70. CSF: £47.67. Tricast: £310.63.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £5,824.26 carried forward to Newcastle today).
Placepot: £120.10.
Quadpot: £153.80.

IN BRIEF

Pakistan captain fined for accusation

SALIM MALIK, the Pakistan captain, was fined 50 per cent of his match fee ($150) yesterday for suggesting that Ian Robinson, the umpire, had interfered with the ball during the second day's play in the third Test match against Zimbabwe in Harare on Thursday. Salim was also given a two-Test suspended sentence. Aamir Sohail, the opening batsman, was given a severe reprimand for the same offence but escaped a fine.

The statement released by Jackie Hendriks, the match referee, and Don Arnott, the Zimbabwe Cricket Union chief executive, said that the umpires, Robinson, and Steve Randell, from Australia, had reported the players after they had suggested that Robinson "had wet one side of the ball, currently in use, or interfered with it in some way".

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, Sarfraz Nawaz, the former fast bowler, in his role as special adviser to Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, said corruption is widespread in Pakistan cricket and asked a government committee to launch an investigation. "Even local matches are fixed," Sarfraz said. "Betting is very high. It goes into the millions of rupees."

Foster primed

Swimming: Mark Foster has good reason to reflect fondly on his new year trip to Hong Kong this morning as he takes to his blocks for the 100 metres freestyle at the World Cup final in Gelsenkirchen, Germany (Craig Lord writes). Foster stands four points clear of Aleksandr Popov, of Russia, who cannot become champion because he did not compete in Hong Kong. Foster hopes that Popov will draw him to times fast enough to keep Silko Günzel, of Berlin, eight points adrift, at bay. Foster is also likely to finish runner-up in the butterfly category and could boost his race earnings this winter to more than £14,000, including bonuses of more than £3,000 for the world record of 23.55sec at 50 metres butterfly he set at Sheffield.

Slawinski back

Netball: England are boosted by the return of Kendra Slawinski, their captain, for the match against Scotland at Worthing today (Louise Taylor writes). Defending a record of 52 wins in 52 contests, England could be forgiven for regarding the as practice for a tour of New Zealand in April and the world championships in Birmingham in July.

Takher in doubt

Hockey: A hand injury could prevent Kalbir Takher, the midfield player, from leading Cannock in their fifth-round Hockey Association Cup match at home against Reading today and the National League first division match at Teddington tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes).

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Buccaneer sworn to Cup adventure

FA CUP

Russell Kempson finds a gentle family man beyond the fearsome figure at the helm of the Molineux revival

The piratical appearance of de Wolf has struck fear into opponents of Wolverhampton Wanderers this season. Photograph: Marc Aspland

John de Wolf could haunt for Holland. His fearsome appearance — long, straggly hair, out-of-control beard, both ears ringed or studded — would scare the bravest of souls if looming large out of a full-mooned night in a misty graveyard.

The 6ft 2in Dutchman, rugged central defender and captain of Wolverhampton Wanderers, is also an intimidating sight amid the apparent safety and gleaming magnificence of Molineux in glorious daylight. He exudes an uneasy kind of awe by merely being there.

Such chilling fears, however, are shot down by simple conversation. De Wolf does not howl or growl — it is more a deep reverberation — and his fractured yet recognisable English instantly reveals a warm nature. His image is natural, clearly not cultivated, and he copes patiently with persistent questioning.

"I like English football for a lot of years," he said. "Every Saturday I watch *Match of the Day*. I play at Tottenham four years ago, for Feyenoord in the Cup Winners' Cup, and play against Lineker. I kept thinking: 'This is unbelievable.' "

De Wolf, 32, also appreciates the tradition and passion of the FA Cup. "I know the Cup is very massive here," he said. "Anyone can beat anyone, even the lower teams against the higher teams. It is great, a bit special."

Wolverhampton, the lower team, in second place in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, play Leicester City, the higher team, bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, at Molineux in the fifth round this afternoon. De Wolf, capped 11 times by Holland, has tasted knock-out success, with winners' medals in three of the past four years at Feyenoord. He already has two FA Cup scalps since his £600,000 move in December.

Mansfield Town were beaten 3-2 in the third round and Sheffield Wednesday 4-3, in a penalty shoot-out in a replay, in the fourth. "Mansfield was not my best game," de Wolf said. "But we came back from 2-0 down at half-time and the supporters were dancing and singing as if we had won the Cup final. I realised how important it was to people."

It was vital, too, for Graham Taylor, the Wolverhampton and former England manager, that he plugged the centre-back gap left by the long-term loss of Peter Shirtliff to injury. Yet advancing age and the wildman, wolfman reputation were causes for concern.

De Wolf may not have initially inspired the most pleasant of memories, either. He played in Holland's 2-0 win over England in Rotterdam in October 1993, which effectively brought down the curtain on World Cup qualification and Taylor's international managerial career. "Signing John was a slight risk," Taylor conceded.

"But I was desperate for a centre half and I couldn't find one in this country. With all that hair, beard and everything, a lot of people just don't realise he's got a good touch with both feet and is a very good passer of the ball as well. He's also a strong man, mentally, and that's what I like. When he goes out there, he expects to win."

Physically, de Wolf dominates with ease. When opponents are tackled, they stay tackled: there is no hint of holding back from any legacy of the knee-ligament damage that once sidelined him for 18 months in Holland.

Controversy has also hurt, when he reportedly turned up overweight for the Dutch World Cup campaign in the United States last year. He then tore a muscle in training, playing no part in the event.

Away from the public glare, though, de Wolf is a sensitive, private man, never more content than when at home, in the smart Shropshire suburbs of Wolverhampton, with his wife, Ingrid, and their three young children. His fitful early form noticably improved when they joined him in January.

After the home match against Bristol City earlier this month, visited by 35 Dutch football followers, he took a group of them out for dinner. He has helped generate substantial funds for children's cancer charities in Holland and is discreetly enthusiastic about attending Wolves-related functions in the community.

"The move has more than met my expectations," the Dutchman said. "Everything here is ready for the Premiership and now we must do it." He then made his excuses — "I have to pick up my boys from school" — and, after a few, last photographs, he hurried off. De big, not so bad. Wolf had departed.

FORM GUIDE TO THE FA CUP

Fifth-round record over past 15 years

	W	L
Crystal Palace	2	1
Everton	8	3
Leeds Utd	1	0
Leicester City	1	1
Liverpool	7	3
Manchester City	3	1
Manchester Utd	5	4
Millwall	1	1
Newcastle Utd	0	5
Norwich City	5	1
QPR	2	2
Southampton	3	4
Tottenham	6	2
Watford	5	4
Wimbledon	3	3
Wolverhampton	2	1

FIFTH-ROUND APPEARANCES: 34: Everton, Liverpool. 33: Tottenham 31: Manchester United 24: Manchester City 22: Leicester. 20: Newcastle. 19: Wolves. 17: Leeds 16: Norwich, Southampton 13: Watford. 11: Queens Park Rangers. 9: Millwall, Crystal Palace. 6: Wimbledon.

Good records

There are a surprising number of sides with good records still in the competition. Since the fifth round was introduced in 1925-26, Liverpool and Everton have been this far on 34 occasions, Tottenham Hotspur 33 times and Manchester United 31. All four also have good form over the past 15 years. The Premiership clubs with the poorest records in that period are Newcastle United, who have not progressed in five attempts, and Leeds United, who have reached the fifth round once. Of the Endsleigh Insurance League clubs left in, Watford have the best 15-year form with nine visits to the fifth round and five wins.

Poor records

Four of the FA Carling Premiership teams that have never won the FA Cup have reached the fifth round Norwich City perhaps face the sternest test away to Everton, a team they have met once in the past and succumbed to 1-0 Leicester City, Queens Park Rangers and Crystal Palace face Endsleigh Insurance League opposition, but all have poor records against their opponents Rangers have lost both meetings against Millwall, Leicester have managed one win in four attempts against Wolverhampton Wanderers, while Palace have yet to beat Watford. Liverpool and Wimbledon have met once in the FA Cup, in the 1988 Final, when Wimbledon won 1-0.

Manchester ties

The Manchester clubs have met their respective fifth-round opponents on eight occasions. Newcastle United hold the superior record over Manchester City, having won four and lost two, while Manchester United have the edge over Leeds United, with three wins against two defeats. The goal tallies for the meetings of the clubs are in contrast 25 goals have been scored in the Newcastle United-Manchester City games, while Manchester United and Leeds United have managed ten between them.

JULIAN DESBOROUGH

Fifa's regulations put to the test by Welsh exiles

ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

The disorientation of football values has scarcely known such a week: the Dublin atrocity has had enough written about it. Fifa's U-turn on taking the world youth championship away from Nigeria has perhaps not been aired enough. But there are another few hours of the week to go, and unless something happens across the Severn Bridge before midnight, one of the most bizarre tales in the game's history will hit the world governing body even deeper.

Three small clubs — tiny clubs, they describe themselves — Newport AFC, Colwyn Bay and Caernarfon, are still intent on taking the Football Association of Wales (FAW) to the High Court, seeking costs and damages which, at £600,000, could ruin it.

The court case is scheduled for ten days from March 13. But the midnight hour tonight is set against the clubs by Fifa. It deems that they are in breach of article 57 of the Fifa statutes, which state that no club is permitted to refer disputes with any association to a court of law. The clubs regard themselves as pursuing justice within the law of the land. Their court action against the FAW is for restraint of trade and breach of contract. But to compound the issue, they do not even play their football in Wales.

> 'The clubs know that they are in a risky business'

Newport's is the archetypal story of a town's love of its club, for this is a club resurrected after the former Newport County went into liquidation. The townspeople would not accept extinction and, unlike many minor clubs in Britain, they have municipal backing to the tune of a £3 million new stadium.

Alun Evans, the chief executive of the FAW, is the central figure in the dispute. He brands the three clubs as rebels. And they, in his eyes, damage the grandiose intentions of the FAW to maintain a presence in the Uefa Cup.

There has been some rich language, highly amusing but damaging to the core of football both sides of Offa's Dyke. The FAW does not turn a hair at inviting Vinnie Jones to pull on the national jersey, but it is incensed to the point of apoplexy at the choice exercised by the three clubs to emulate Cardiff City, Wrexham and Swansea City by plying their trade in the richer pastures of England. The point for these clubs is that they have ambitions.

Newport are determined to try to regain status in the English professional league. To that end they are galloping away in the midland division of the Beazer Homes League. They are 13 points ahead of the rest, and their average home attendance of 1,232 compares to the 229 average gate of clubs in the Konica League of Wales, which Evans would have them returned to.

Ray Taylor and David Hando, a director and chairman of Newport respectively, have diligently sought, through the arbitration of Fifa, to come to some agreement with the FAW, without success. So, as the programme for Newport's game against Moor Town today spells out, common sense has not prevailed and High Court action appears the imminent route.

The three clubs insist that it is their right to play in the league of their choice. They are willing, under Fifa arbitration, to periodically reassess the situation, and if the Konica League was in future to remotely offer them comparable competition and earning power, they would repatriate. Caernarfon, who hold their board meetings in Welsh and forbid English speaking once the team bus is on the road, have particular reasons to wish for that day. Newport, despite its geographic closeness to England and its success across the border, has one Manxman, one Scot and 15 Welshmen in its squad. So, any accusations of xenophobic — in their case anti-Welsh feelings — would appear nonsense.

The case, Fifa's legal expert admits, fascinates him. It also carries a considerable threat. For Newport, members of the Gloucestershire FA, and thus affiliated to Lancaster Gate and not Cardiff, there is the acknowledgement this weekend that they are in "a risky business". They realise the danger to Fifa's control should three tiny clubs overthrow an association. But if it comes to March 13, many a Welsh football lover would give much to attend the High Court when Nicholas Stewart, QC for the three exiles, begins to cross-examine Evans.

Thomson delights on true surface

By Gordon Allan

ANDY THOMSON began the defence of his world singles title with a 7-5, 7-2, 7-1 victory over David Le Marquand, of Jersey, in the first round of the Churchill Insurance indoor bowls championships at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Le Marquand, who has played outdoors in world championships and Commonwealth Games, led in each set, but failed to score again in each. Although below his best, Thomson's line and length were more consistent than the Channel Islander's.

The first set lasted 11 ends, with Thomson twice missing chances to score four and once giving the shot away. Le Marquand took the mat up the green in the second set to no avail. In the third, he dropped a four, giving Thomson a 6-1 lead. Thomson meets Alex Marshall, of Scotland, in the second round today.

Thomson was not satisfied with his form in the early part of the season and practised several times a week before this event, using the Stevenage green, which is similar in character to the portable rink.

His record in the indoor game, which includes winning all four national titles, is unmatched even by David Bryant or Tony Allcock. It suggests that Thomson is happier on carpet than on grass, and so he is.

Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, the first woman to play in this event, took Ian Schuback, of Australia, the 1992 champion, to four sets before losing to the last bowl. Schuback won 7-2, 7-5, 3-7, 7-6 and had to call on all his experience, skill and nerve to do it.

The Australian, who recently simplified his delivery, played brilliantly in the first and second sets, but Johnston, the women's world outdoor singles champion and Commonwealth Games champion, came back at him in the third with some attacking bowls that got her out of trouble and earned priceless shots.

The deciding set went to ten ends, with Johnston drawing level three times. On the tenth, she had a match lie before Schuback trailed the jack through for the winner with his last bowl.

Results, page 47

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	10	80	good	varied	closed	fine	5	16/2
(Upper runs remain in good state; all 22 lifts open)								
Obergurgl	60	135	good	varied	good	fine	-2	16/2
(Superb, sunny skiing at all levels; snow forecast)								
Schladming	30	90	good	varied	fair	fine	6	16/2
(Lovely skiing on Reiteralm; 70 of 75 lifts open)								
Söll	30	70	fair	heavy	slush	fine	10	16/2
(Mild temperatures making resort runs difficult, snow forecast)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	150	360	fair	heavy	wet	cloud	0	17/2
(Snow on upper slopes, rain lower down; 71 of 82 lifts open)								
Avoriaz	210	280	good	varied	fair	cloud	-1	16/2
(Fine piste skiing on all but lowest slopes)								
Courchevel	150	260	good	heavy	good	snow	1	17/2
(High wind closing some lifts; unpisted runs excellent)								
Tignes	205	260	good	powder	good	snow	-2	17/2
(Best skiing in trees as visibility is poor)								
Val d'Isère	165	355	good	varied	good	snow	0	17/2
(Excellent piste skiing below 2,500 metres; 30 of 47 lifts open)								
Val Thorens	185	350	good	powder	good	snow	2	17/2
(Pistes in good condition; poor visibility)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	85	115	good	varied	good	fine	2	16/2
(Best skiing in mornings, heavy by afternoons; all 16 lifts open)								
Villars	45	230	good	heavy	wet	cloud	2	15/2
(Good piste skiing despite poor visibility, resort busy)								

Source. Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial.

THE TIMES

Natalie Clein: award-winning student and soloist

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The concert in Bournemouth on March 11 features Natalie Clein who was BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1994 and the first-ever British winner of the Eurovision competition for young musicians.

A student at the Royal College of Music, she is much in demand as a recitalist and will be playing Fauré's *Elegy for Cello* in a programme that features favourites from the Last Night of the Proms.

A full list of concerts in London was printed on February 7 and a list of regional concerts was printed on Tuesday. To book your 20p tickets, collect six tokens from *The Times* and telephone the number given in the listing. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for 20p.

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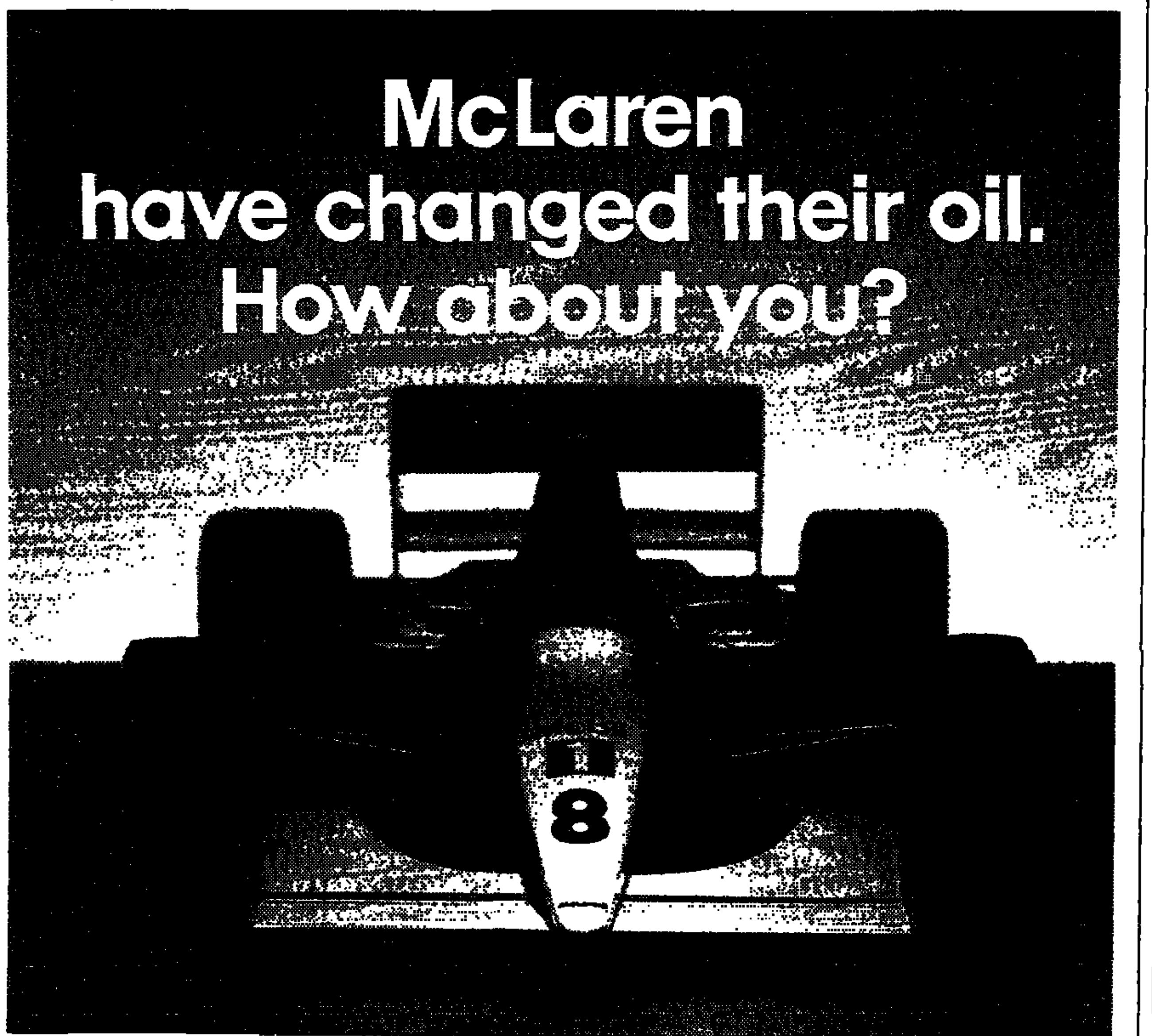

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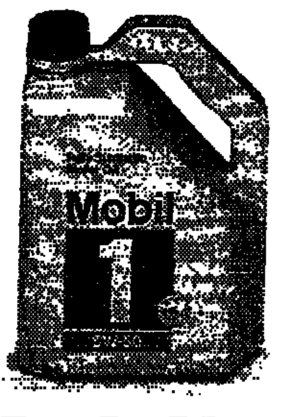

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Westner's collapse opens door for Els

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

WAYNE WESTNER has been around long enough not to be surprised by anything that happens in golf. And sure enough, he was not surprised after his second round in the Lexington South African PGA championship yesterday. He was stunned.

After taking 13 strokes more than the previous day, Westner reeled off the course at The Wanderers looking like a man who had spent a night in a haunted castle with a mischievous ghost. He poured himself a beer with a hand that was not completely steady and said with deep feeling: "What a depressing game golf is. Almost as depressing as marriage."

Westner was on cloud nine after his first round of 62, which contained six birdies and an eagle. After his second round, which also included an eagle, he raised his eyes skywards. "It was one of those days when you think it was all a bad dream," he said. "And then you wake up and realise it wasn't. But it's over now, thank God."

If you go out in 39 and come back in 45, you are said to have played wartime golf. What is the appropriate phrase for Westner's scoring eccentricities that contributed to his five-over par 75? From the 10th (his first) to the 14th, his scores were bogey, birdie, bogey, triple-bogey, double-bogey. He had dropped six strokes in five holes.

Then he had a stunning run when he resembled the man who won the Desert Classic in 1993, a long, straight hitter of boundless courage. He covered the next seven holes in two under par. He should have known that on such a bizarre day this sort of scoring would not last. Sure enough, his golf soon went west again.

From the 4th (his 13th) to the 8th, he went bogey, eagle, par, bogey, bogey. He claimed he had used a year's supply of bad luck in the space of four hours.

This erratic display saw Westner hand over the lead to Nic Henning, the son of the professional at The Wanderers and nephew of Harold and Alan. Henning was one of only four players to break the par of 70. His 66, an outstanding score on such a blustery day, gives him a slender lead of one stroke over Ernie Els, who took 71.

Els failed to take advantage of his length on the three par fives. Then there were those greens that he had criticised the day before. "They are hard and they are quick," Els said. "They are almost like US Open greens." Els three-putted his last hole, as if to underline how difficult he found putting surfaces which, by tea-time on another gloriously day, were becoming spiked up.

Tournaments such as this, with relatively weak fields, are an ideal proving ground for young players like Vanslow Phillips, 22, who turned professional after the 1993 Walker Cup at Interlachen, Minnesota, his head filled with dreams of glory.

Twice Phillips, known as Van, has failed to win his card and so is condemned to live in the twilight world of events on the Challenge Tour and any others to which he can wangle an invitation. He has been in South Africa for the past six weeks and is acclimatised, which perhaps explains why he is playing well. His 71 was good enough to put him in joint third place with Westner and Trevor Dodds.

"With the way the wind was blowing and the state of the greens I would have been very happy with a 70," Phillips said. Westner would have been happy with a 70, too.

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (SA unless stated). 135: N Henning 69, 66. 136: E Els 65 71. 137: V Phillips (GB) 66, 71; T Dodds (Nam) 66, 71; W Westner 62, 75. 138: A Johnstone (Zim) 68, 70, A Cejka (Ger) 66, 72. 139: R Stewart 69, 70; R Whittaker (US) 66, 73; M Board (US) 68, 71; W Schutte 68, 71. 140: J Kingston 71, 69; A Bossert 71, 69; R Wessels 68, 72, F Quinn (US) 69, 71; M McNulty (Zim) 68, 72; J Hawkes 71, 69. 141: M Wiltshire 71, 70; J McHenry (Ire) 69, 72; W Riley (Aus) 70, 71; F Nobilo (NZ) 70, 71; D W Basson 71, 70, D Edlund (Swe) 71, 70; W Bradley 68, 73, B Lincoln 68, 73; J Townsend (US) 67, 74; D Papps 69, 72; R Kaplan 71, 70; M Hallberg (Swe) 73, 68.

PAUL HANNA

"If it goes as quick as it looks, everyone had better watch out," Nigel Mansell said as he joined Mika Hakkinen for the unveiling of the new Marlboro McLaren Mercedes at the Science Museum in London yesterday

Marin unlikely to hinder Bruno

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK BRUNO should regain his status, at least in the eyes of the British public, as the country's leading heavyweight when he meets Rodolfo Marin, of Puerto Rico, at the West of England showground, Shepton Mallet tonight.

As long as Lennox Lewis was a world champion, Bruno was in danger of losing his position of "favourite son", particularly as Lewis stopped him in Cardiff before Bruno failed to draw the usual Bru-noh-oh crowd at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, when he beat Jesse Ferguson in one round.

Marin is the perfect opponent for Bruno to catch the eye of the nation. Those who know him best say the Puerto Rican is not "one of those guys who is going to fall over. He has to be knocked over".

Yet no matter how Bruno wins, on a knockout or points, whether he struggles and has to come through some difficult patches or simply walks through Marin, he will emerge as a real contender, because the country will no doubt be told by ITV that when "our Frank" boxes again for the world title, in the not too distant future, he has a good chance of becoming champion at last. ITV is hoping for nine million viewers for tonight's bout.

Don King, the American promoter, has promised Bruno a world-title challenge against the winner of the bout between Oliver McCall, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, and Larry Holmes. Bruno has a realistic chance of beating either of them.

McCall used to be Bruno's sparring partner and is made for Bruno's style. "I'd be too strong for him," Bruno said. "Styles make fights. McCall is exactly right for Bruno, even Lennox Lewis has said so," said Frank Warren, Bruno's promoter. Holmes, 45, is unlikely to stay on his feet if caught by Bruno.

Marin could ruin everything by catching Bruno with a big punch, and it only needs one good blow to set our hero going, but there is nothing in the Puerto Rican's record to suggest he will deliver such a blow. He is not even in the top 30 in the WBC rankings.

In this record of 20 wins in 23 contests, Marin has failed against the only three well-known opponents he has faced: Tyrell Biggs in 1990, Riddick Bowe in 1991 and Joe Hipp in 1994. Biggs was well past his best and Bowe knocked him out in two rounds, broke his jaw in several places and his spirit.

Those who saw the bout against Hipp said that, with a little more effort, Marin could have pulled off an upset. Even though Hipp, at No 7 in the WCB rankings, is two places above Bruno, he is not really a world-class man, being simply a slugger and a not very good one at that. So Marin's showing against Hipp does not mean very much, although Bruno has taken the precaution of watching that bout on video.

"I reckon Marin won it," Bruno said. "I've had only one round of boxing in 16 months and if you were to tell them in America that I was fighting Marin after such a lack of ring action, they'd say it was crazy."

Marin said that what he had seen of Bruno — his bout against Mike Tyson — had not impressed him but it would be surprising if, on receiving a Bruno jab followed by a right hand, he does not take a different view of things.

If, somehow, Marin is not affected by Bruno's blows and is still there full of fight by the fifth, we could be in for a lively tenth and last round.

Shepton awaits, page 6

Few chances for purchase power to be persuasive

Simon Wilde finds it hard to determine quite how a cricket match could be fixed

So, you want to fix an international cricket match. No questions asked. It matters not if you work for a dodgy bookmaker or a shady betting syndicate. Mum is the word. The question, though, is how to go about it?

The surest way would be to approach anyone with a role on the field, which means players and umpires. The latter have the greatest potential to influence a match and might appear the best option. As one former international player said this week: "All a bloke has to do [to be given out by an umpire] is get hit on the pads or play and miss one outside off stump. It might take a bad decision to give him out, but bad decisions happen. Human error."

Yet many umpires are inured to attempts at coercion — for years, they have lived with the possibility of death-threats for giving the wrong man out in the wrong country — and might be immune to persuasions. At the top, their careers are more assured than those of players. To buy one would be expensive.

An individual player would be cheaper, but less effective. He might be useful in providing you with the sort of details concerning tactics, selections and fitness that Dean Jones claims he was asked for, but, if you want to bring about a particular result, he will be unable to do it by himself.

Ideally, you would buy a whole team and instruct them to under-perform, but that would need a lot of money. In which case, a few leading players will have to suffice. Also, if they are leading players, they know that the occasional sub-standard performance will not jeopardise their places.

"I think it certainly is possible to contrive a result by bribing two or three key players," Richard Hutton, the former England all-rounder, said yesterday. "Cricket is an unpredictable game, but certain players — such as spin bowlers on a turning pitch — can have an important influence.

"It would perhaps be easier for a batsman to 'throw' a match than a bowler, because one bad shot would be enough. A bowler would have to consistently put the ball in the 'wrong' spot, and, even then, he could not guarantee that a full-toss will not be hit down the throat of a fielder."

Once you have got your players, you must choose the occasion. A limited-overs match might be better than a Test match — no chance of a draw, less scope for unexpected fluctuations — and, if you are going to sow these seeds regularly, there are more one-day matches from which to reap your harvest.

All this may sound implausible, but such things have happened. In the first quarter of the Nineteenth century, gambling on cricket matches was rife — and so was corruption. Bookmakers would go down to Hampshire, the nursery of the game, early in the season to buy up players, or recruit them at the great cricketers' hostel of the "Green Man and Still" in Oxford Street.

On one famous occasion, in 1817, players of both Nottingham and England were bought to lose the same match, Nottingham failing to do so. Some of the best players in the land were involved, notably William Lambert, who was ordered from Lord's for his part in the affair.

Such dark practices died out, according to H. S. Altham in his history of the game, because "the number of good players was steadily on the increase, and, where it had once been enough to buy but one or two in order to make sure of a result, it was now necessary to square perhaps half a side".

Yet Altham, writing in the 1920s, could not have anticipated that, half a century later, the game would welcome betting tents and open its palm to Kerry Packer.

Salim fined, page 43

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Cup

Fifth round

( ) Everton v Norwich
( ) *QPR v Millwall
( ) *Tottenham v Southampton
(1) *Watford v Crystal Palace
( ) *Wolverhampton v Leicester

FA Carling Premiership

( ) Coventry v West Ham
( ) Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	28	19	5	4	61	25	62
Man Utd	28	18	6	4	51	21	60
Newcastle	28	14	9	5	47	30	51
Liverpool	27	13	9	5	48	22	48
Nottm Forest	28	13	7	8	41	31	46
Tottenham	27	12	7	8	45	38	43
Leeds	26	10	9	7	34	28	39
Sheff Wed	28	10	9	9	37	36	39
Wimbledon	27	10	6	11	32	47	36
Norwich	27	9	8	10	27	31	35
Aston Villa	28	8	10	10	39	37	34
Arsenal	28	8	10	10	31	32	34
Chelsea	27	8	9	10	35	38	33
Man City	27	8	8	11	35	44	32
Soton	27	6	13	8	39	44	31
QPR	26	8	7	11	39	45	31
Everton	28	7	10	11	29	38	31
Coventry	28	7	10	11	27	45	31
C Palace	28	7	9	12	21	28	30
West Ham	27	8	5	14	26	35	29
Ipswich	27	5	5	17	28	55	20
Leicester	27	4	7	16	25	46	19

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(2) Bolton v Barnsley
(3) Bristol City v Oldham
( ) Burnley v Grimsby
( ) Luton v Swindon
(4) Middlesbrough v Charlton
(5) Southend v Sheffield Utd
(6) Sunderland v Portsmouth
(7) Tranmere v Reading
(8) West Bromwich v Notts County

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	30	14	9	7	50	32	51
Wolves	28	15	5	9	52	39	50
Tranmere	30	14	8	8	48	35	50
Reading	30	14	8	8	35	27	50
Middlesbro	28	14	7	7	41	26	49
Watford	30	12	11	7	35	28	47
Sheff Utd	30	12	10	8	48	34	46
Grimsby	30	11	11	8	47	40	44
Barnsley	28	12	6	10	36	36	42
Luton	29	11	7	11	38	40	40
Millwall	28	10	10	8	36	32	40
Charlton	29	10	9	10	43	45	39
Derby	29	10	9	10	35	31	39
Oldham	29	10	8	11	39	38	38
Southend	30	10	8	14	31	54	38
Stoke	28	9	9	10	29	34	36
Port Vale	28	9	8	11	34	38	35
West Brom	30	9	7	14	25	38	34
Portsmouth	29	8	9	12	30	41	33
Bristol City	31	9	6	16	28	41	33
Swindon	28	8	8	12	36	46	32
Sunderland	29	6	14	9	28	29	32
Burnley	27	6	9	12	28	40	27
Notts County	31	6	8	17	33	45	26

Second division

(9) Birmingham v York
(10) Bradford v Peterborough
(11) Brighton v Crewe
(12) Cambridge Utd v Blackpool
(13) Chester v Shrewsbury
(14) Huddersfield v Cardiff
(15) Hull v Stockport
(16) Leyton Orient v Wrexham
(17) Oxford Utd v Bristol Rovers
(18) Plymouth v Bournemouth
(19) Wycombe v Rotherham

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Alfreton v Farsley Celtic, Atherton LR v Netherfield, Blyth Spartans v Caernarfon; Congleton v Workington; Curzon Ashton v Harrogate Town; Fleetwood v Goole; Great Harwood v Lancaster; Gretna v Bamber Bridge; Mossley v Worksop, Radcliffe v Eastwood Town; Warrington v Ashton United.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Llanelli; Cwmbran v Inter Cardiff (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Barry; Holywell v Llansantffraid (1.0). Maesteg Park v Caersws; Newtown v Bangor City (2.30). Porthmadog v Flint Town (12.0): Ton Pentre v Afan Lido.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v St Patrick's Athletic (7.0).

Second division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	29	17	4	8	59	28	55
Huddersfield	29	15	9	5	51	34	54
Birmingham	27	15	8	4	49	19	53
Crewe	28	16	4	8	56	47	52
Wycombe	27	14	8	5	40	30	50
Blackpool	30	15	4	11	50	48	49
Oxford Utd	28	14	5	9	45	37	47
Bristol Rov	26	12	10	4	45	25	46
Hull	28	13	6	9	47	38	45
Stockport	28	13	4	11	43	37	43
Bradford	29	12	7	10	41	42	43
Wrexham	27	11	9	7	46	36	42
York	27	12	5	10	38	27	41
Swansea	27	9	12	6	35	29	39
Rotherham	28	9	8	11	38	38	35
Brighton	28	8	10	10	31	36	34
Shrewsbury	29	8	8	13	38	40	32
Peterboro	28	7	11	10	34	50	32
Camb Utd	29	7	9	13	39	53	30
Plymouth	28	7	5	16	30	59	26
Bournem'th	30	5	7	18	28	57	22
Cardiff	28	5	6	17	27	46	21
Leyton O	28	5	5	18	22	43	20
Chester	30	3	8	19	25	58	17

Third division

(20) Barnet v Colchester
(21) Doncaster v Lincoln
(22) Fulham v Darlington
(23) Gillingham v Northampton
(24) Hereford v Bury
(25) *Preston v Carlisle
(26) Rochdale v Exeter
(27) Scarborough v Hartlepool
(28) Scunthorpe v Chesterfield
(29) Walsall v Torquay
(30) Wigan v Mansfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	28	19	8	1	49	17	65
Chesterfield	28	15	7	6	39	26	52
Walsall	24	13	7	4	43	24	46
Doncaster	28	12	8	8	35	23	44
Bury	23	12	6	5	32	17	42
Scunthorpe	27	12	5	10	48	38	41
Colchester	27	11	8	8	37	38	41
Preston	28	12	5	11	35	29	41
Mansfield	27	12	4	11	52	40	40
Fulham	28	9	12	7	36	35	39
Barnet	26	11	6	9	33	35	39
Torquay	27	10	8	9	37	36	38
Rochdale	27	9	7	11	33	48	34
Lincoln	26	9	7	10	31	29	34
Darlington	26	9	6	11	32	34	33
Wigan	26	8	6	12	37	41	30
Exeter	25	7	5	13	20	38	26
Hereford	28	6	7	15	31	51	25
Northampton	28	5	10	13	27	40	25
Gillingham	26	6	6	14	27	38	24
Hartlepool	25	6	6	13	23	39	24
Scarborough	26	4	6	16	27	48	18

Vauxhall Conference

(31) Altrincham v Farnborough
(32) Bath v Halifax
(33) Bromsgrove v Runcorn
(34) †Macclesfield v Dover
(35) Gateshead v Merthyr
(36) Kettering v Welling
(37) Southport v Northwich
(38) Stafford v Kidderminster
(39) Stalybridge v Yeovil
(40) Telford v Dagenham and Red

† Match switched to Macclesfield. For pools purposes, it will be classed as a home match for Dover.

Unibond League

Premier division

(41) Bishop Auckland v Horwich
(—) Buxton v Frickley
(42) Colwyn Bay v Accrington Stanley
(—) Gainsborough v Whitley Bay
(43) Guiseley v Barrow
(44) Hyde v Droylsden
(45) Knowsley v Emley
(46) Matlock v Spennymoor
(—) Morecambe v Marine
(—) Winsford v Boston
(—) Witton v Chorley

Diadora League

Premier division

(47) Aylesbury v Hayes
(48) Carshalton v Walton and H
(49) Chesham v Bishop's Stortford
(50) Grays v Dulwich
(51) Harrow v Enfield
(52) Hendon v St Albans
(—) Kingstonian v Bromley
(—) Marlow v Sutton United
(—) Molesey v Hitchin
(—) Purfleet v Wokingham
(—) Yeading v Slough

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest v Stoke (11.0).

Tennents Scottish Cup

Fourth round

(—) Airdrie v Dunfermline
(—) Celtic v Meadowbank
(53) Dundee v Raith
(—) Hibernian v Motherwell
(—) Huntly v Dundee Utd
(—) Kilmarnock v East Fife
(—) Stenhousemuir v Aberdeen

Bell's Scottish League

First division

(—) St Johnstone v Hamilton

Second division

(—) Dumbarton v Clyde
(54) Queen of South v Brechin

Third division

(55) Albion v Cowdenbeath
(56) Alloa v Caledonian This
(57) East Stirling v Forfar
(58) Montrose v Queen's Park
(—) Ross County v Arbroath

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Rushden and Diamonds, Burton v VS Rugby, Cambridge City v Leek, Cheltenham v Sittingbourne. Crawley v Chelmsford; Gravesend and Northfleet v Hednesford; Halesowen v Dorchester; Hastings v Worcester, Solihull v Corby; Sudbury v Gresley; Trowbridge v Gloucester. Southern division: Baldock v Witney; Burnham v Bashley; Bury Town v Waterlooville, Erith and Belvedere v Clevedon, Fareham v Margate, Havant v Salisbury, Newport, IoW v Ashford, Poole v Yate, Tonbridge AFC v Fisher 93. Weston-super-Mare v Braintree. Midland division: Armitage v Tamworth, Bedworth v Ilkeston, Evesham v Buckingham, Forest Green v Nuneaton, Grantham v Dudley; Hinckley v Bilston; King's Lynn v Bridgnorth, Newport AFC v Moor Green (12.30); Rothwell v Leicester United, Stourbridge v RC Warwick; Sutton Coldfield v Redditch

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Barking v Staines, Basingstoke v Abingdon T, Berkhamsted v Worthing, Billericay v Whyteleafe; Boreham Wood v Heybridge; Leyton v Chertsey, Maidenhead v Wembley; Newbury v Dorking; Tooting and Mitcham v Ruislip Manor, Uxbridge v Wivenhoe. Second division: Banstead v Tilbury; Barton v Aveley; Chalfont St Peter v Witham; Cheshunt v Leatherhead; Croydon v Bracknell, Edgware v Thame, Egham v Ware, Hampton v Windsor and Eton, Hemel Hempstead v Hungerford; Malden Vale v Oxford C, Met Police v Saffron Walden. Third division: Bedford v Northwood, Camberley v Leighton, Canvey Is v Harlow, Cove v Harefield; Flackwell Hth v Feltham and Hounslow; Hertford v Collier Row; Hornchurch v Clapton; Horsham v Tring; Lewes v Epsom and Ewell, Southall v Kingsbury.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Romford, Burnham Ramblers v Basildon; Eton Manor v Brentwood, Ford v Concord, Sawbridgeworth v Maldon. Stansted v Great Wakering.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Corinthian-Casuals. Brimsdown v Willesden Hawkeye; Cockfosters v Walthamstow Pennant; Haringey v Hanwell, Hillingdon v Waltham Abbey, St Margaretsbury v Croydon; Tower Hamlets v Beaconsfield Sycob

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Hartley Wintney; Cranleigh v Chipstead, Merstham v Peppard; Cobham v Bedfont; Horley v Ashford; Sandhurst v Viking Sports

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Welwyn GC, Brache Sparta v Harpenden, Buckingham Ath v Dunstable, Hatfield v Potters Bar, Letchworth GC v Arlesey Town, Royston v Milton Keynes, Shillington v Hoddesdon.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Bridport; Bristol MF v Liskeard; Calne v Barnstaple, Elmore v Mangotsfield; Odd Down v Crediton; Paulton v Saltash. Taunton v Westbury. Tiverton v Chippenham, Torrington v Frome.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris v Wroxham; Diss v Felixstowe, Fakenham v Woodbridge; Hadleigh v Cornard; Halstead v March, Haverhill v Harwich and Parkeston, Lowestoft v Histon; Newmarket v Stowmarket. Soham v Great Yarmouth; Sudbury v Tiptree; Wisbech v Watton.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington v Christchurch; Aerostructures v Downton, BAT v Swanage and Herston, Brockenhurst v East Cowes; Cowes Sp v Andover, Eastleigh v Totton; Fleet v Portsmouth; Gosport v Wimborne; Horndean v Thatcham. Petersfield v Bournemouth, Ryde Sp v Bemerton Heath

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Three Bridges; Crowborough v Wick; East Grinstead v Littlehampton. Eastbourne Town v Shoreham: Langney Sports v Pagham; Newhaven v Hailsham, Portfield v Burgess Hill; Ringmer v Oakwood, Southwick v Peacehaven/Telscombe

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Kent Police, Cray v Faversham, Darenth Heathside v Thamesmead, Deal v Ramsgate; Furness v Dartford, Greenwich v Beckenham, Herne Bay v Chatham, Sheppey v Whitstable. Slade Green v Folkestone Invicta, Tunbridge Wells v Crockenhill.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cinderford v Highworth, Fairford v Abingdon; Kintbury v Cirencester; Pegasus Juniors v Bicester, Shortwood v Brackley. Premier division Cup: Third round: Banbury United v Swindon Supermarine

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Raunds, Cogenhoe v Eynesbury; Holbeach v Stotfold, Newport Pagnell v Kempston. Northampton Spencer v Mirrlees Blackstone; Spalding v Boston; Stamford v Potton; S and L Corby v Long Buckby. Wootton v Desborough.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Stratford; Boldmere v Oldbury; Chasetown v W Midland Police; Halesowen Harriers v Pershore; Hinckley Ath v Boldmere, Rushall v Knypersley Vic; Shepshed v Brierley Hill; Stapenhill v Rocester; Willenhall v Sandwell

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich v Studley BKL, Handrahan Timbers v Coleshill; Highgate v Upton, Olton Royale v Knowle. Sherwood Celtic v Ansells; West Midlands Fire Service v Wellesbourne. Cup: Third round: Chelmsley v Polesworth NW.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich Strollers v Hill Top; Lye v Darlaston; Ludlow v Cradley; Malvern v Walsall Wood; Manders v Stafford, Pelsall Villa v Bilston; Tividale v Blakenall; Westfields v Wednesfield.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Armthorpe Welfare, Ashfield v Sheffield; Brigg v Belper Town; Hallam v Hucknall; Maltby MW v Liversedge; Ossett Town v Ossett Albion, Pickering v North Ferriby, Pontefract Collieries v Denaby, Stocksbridge PS v Lincoln United; Thackley v Glasshoughton Welfare.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Bootle, Darwen v Bacup; Eastwood v Blackpool Rov, Holker OB v Kidsgrove, Newcastle T v Clitheroe, Maine Rd v Prescot, Rossendale v Chadderton, Salford v Glossop NE, Skelmersdale v Penrith; Trafford v Nantwich. Lamot Pils Trophy: Semi-final, second leg: Formby v Stantondale

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Prudhoe, Chester-le-Street v West Auckland; Consett v Eppleton CW, Ferryhill v Durham, Guisborough v Shildon; Hebburn v RTM Newcastle: Murton v Billingham; Peterlee v Whitby: Seaham Red Star v Dunston FB: Tow Law v Northallerton

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Ballymena v Ballyclare; Larne v Distillery

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Watford: Chelsea v Ipswich; Gillingham v Arsenal; Leyton Orient v West Ham, Norwich v Millwall, Queens Park Rangers v Charlton; Tottenham v Fulham. Second division: Brentford v Crystal Palace; Bristol City v Tottenham; Bristol Rovers v Luton; Colchester v Brighton; Reading v Wimbledon; Swindon v Bournemouth: Wycombe v Oxford Utd

BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth round: Ards v Brantwood; Carrick v Dundela; Cliftonville v Banbridge, Coleraine v Portadown; Dungannon v Linfield; Loughgall U v Dungiven (2.15), Newry v Bangor; Omagh v Glenavon.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Civil Service v Old Ignatians; Old Isleworthians v Westerns; St Mary's Coll v NatWest Bank.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn v Old Aloysians, Old Wilsonians v Cardinal Manning; Clapham v Old Danes; Old Hamptonians v Old Tenisonians. Senior first division: Old Salvatorians v Old Kingsburians; Phoenix v Old Edmontonians; Old Suttonians v Latymer: Old Wokingians v Shene.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Crouch End Vampires v Winchmore Hill; Norsemen v Old Latymerians: Old Esthameians v Old Actonians; West Wickham v East Barnet OG. Second division: Alexandra Pk v Polytechnic; Carshalton v Broomfield; Lensbury v Lloyds Bank; Old Bromleians v Old Stationers; Old Parkonians v Kew Assoc. Old Westminster Cits v Old Parmiterians

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Mill Hill Village v Southgate County; Old Owens v Old Grammarians: Witan v Wandsworth Borough. Senior two: Corinthian-Casuals v Albanian; Duncombe Sports v Ealing Association, Hale End v Honourable Artillery Company, Old Fairlopians v Hadley, UCL Academicals v Old Finchleians.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Chigwellians v Lancing. Premier division: Brentwoods v Wellingburians; Malvernians v Aldenhamians; Reptonians v Carthusians. First division: Ardinians v Cholmeleians; Haileyburians v Salopians, Witleians v Bradfeldians; Wykehamists v Westminsters.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Quarter-finals: Islington and Camden v Lea Vall (Chase Lodge, 10.30). London Cup: Essex v Suffolk (East Ham, 10.45). Burton Clifford Shield: Semi-final: Wolverhampton v S Birmingham (Perry Barr, 10.30). Northern Merit: Leeds v Sefton (Oldfield Rd, 10.30). Cheshire Senior Trophy: Chester v Wirral (Overleigh, 10.30). Welsh Shield: Cardiff v Newport (Maesycoed Coll, 10.30). English Schools seven-a-side northern finals (Batley, 11.30). Yorkshire Trophy: Barnsley v Doncaster (10.30). Inter-Town Challenge: Grimsby v Huddersfield (10.30): Hull v Sheffield (10.30); Spen Valley v Trafford (10.30); Chesterfield v Rotherham (10.30); Blackburn v Salford (10.30); Carlisle v Sunderland (10.30).

OTHER MATCH: Woking v Arsenal.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v W Hull; Egremont v Saddleworth: Woolston v Leigh MW.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Third round: Askam v Wigan St Patrick's; Embassy v Heworth, Milford v Oldham St Annes, Norwest Co-Op L'boro v Thornhill; Pudsey v Prestwich; Queens v Westfield Welfare.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Edinburgh (6.0), Bracknell v Fife (6.0), Durham v Humberside (7.0); Milton Keynes v Cardiff (6.30); Nottingham v Whitley (6.30); Sheffield v Peterborough (7.0). First division: Dumfries v Solihull (7.15); Paisley v Chelmsford (7.0); Slough v Blackburn (7.30); Telford v Swindon (7.30). Challenge: Medway v Lee Valley (5.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Worthing (8.0); Hemel v Sunderland (7.30); Manchester Giants v Leopards (7.30). Thames Valley v Leicester (7.0)

BOXING: British light-welterweight championship: Ross Hale (Bristol) v Malcolm Melvin (Birmingham); heavyweight bout: Frank Bruno (GB) v Rodolfo Marin (P Rico) (Shepton Mallet).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

LACROSSE: North of England League: First division: Boardman and Eccles A v Old Waconians, Poynton v Sale; Stockport v Mellor; Heaton Mersey v Ashton; Cheadle v Sheffield. Women's national championship (Haberdashers' Aske's School).

NETBALL: England v Scotland (Worthing, 12.30).

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Five nations' championship

France v Scotland
(at Parc des Princes, 2.0)
Wales v England
(at Cardiff Arms Park)

Insurance Corporation League

First division

Dungannon v Shannon
Garryowen v Cork Constitution
Lansdowne v Young Munster
Old Wesley v Instonians
St Mary's Coll v Blackrock Coll

Second division

Bangor v Greystones
Dolphin v Bective Rangers
Old Crescent v Ballymena
Terenure Coll v Old Belvedere
Univ College Dublin v Wanderers

Club matches

Aspatria v Vale of Lune
Basingstoke v Camberley
Camborne v Plymouth
Edinburgh W v RHK (11.30)
Glasgow Acads v Ayr (12.0)
Gordonians v Stirling County (12.0)
Harlequins v Rugby (12.0) C
Harrogate v Melrose (2.15) C
Langholm v Selkirk (11.0)
Morley v Newcastle Gosforth (3.0)
Nuneaton v Worcester (12.30)
Otley v West Hartlepool (3.0)
Preston G'hoppers v Northwich (3.0)
Rosslyn Park v Sudbury (12.30)
Sale v Liverpool St Helens (12.30)
Stoke v Old Crossleyans
Torquay Athletic v Redruth
Wakefield v Broughton Park
Waterloo v Sheffield (2.15)
Wharfedale v Stockton

PILKINGTON SHIELD: North: Sixth round: Wibsey v Huddersfield YMCA.

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: B division (Meadowbank Sport Centre, Edinburgh).

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: Fifth round: Cannock v Reading (Morris Ground, 1.30). Stourport v Southgate (King Charles School Kidderminster, 11.30). Teddington v Havant (Teddington School, 1.30).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Old Kingstonians. Chichester v Maidenhead; High Wycombe v Winchester; Lewes v Old Walcountians; Lyons v Ashford, Old Whitgiftians v Oxford Hawks; Spencer v Gore Court, Staines v Fareham, Wimbledon v City of Portsmouth. Woking v Dulwich. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Lensbury; Camberley v Bournemouth, Epsom v Cheam. Fleet v Basingstoke; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Petersfield: Oxshott v Merton, Pirelli v Old Edwardians; Purley v London Univ, Southampton T v Hamble OB. Weybridge Hawks v Oxted. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Tunbridge Wells, Blackheath v Bognor; Crawley v Bexleyheath; Gravesend v Brighton, Herne Bay v Beckenham: Horsham v Mid Sussex; Maidstone Russets v Greenwich, Middleton v Tulse Hill, Old Bordenians v Sevenoaks; Old Holcombeians v Old Williamsonians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Bracknell v Amersham; City of Oxford v Wokingham, Eastcote v Aylesbury, Gerrards Cross v Sunbury; Hayes v OMT, HCC v Ramgarhia; Hendon v Richings Park, Marlow v Headington, Mill Hill v PHC Chiswick; M Keynes v Newbury.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hampton-in-Arden v Belper; Harborne v Nottingham, Khalsa v North Notts: Lichfield v Leicester Westleigh, Olton and West Warwicks v Bloxwich.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Formby v Southport; Hightown-Northern v Timperley; Norton v Blackburn, Stockton v Ben Rhydding: Warrington v Harrogate.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Colchester v Cambridge Univ; Dereham v Luton, Ipswich v Blueharts; Peterborough v Chelmsford; Redbridge and Ilford v Bishop's Stortford. Premier division B: Bury St Edmunds v Ipswich and E Suffolk; Old Southendian v Norwich C; Romford v Sudbury; Stevenage v Pelicans; Westcliff v Bedford.

SUN LIFE LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham v Bath Buccaneers, Exeter University v Swansea; Hereford v Plymouth, Taunton Vale v Weston-super-Mare; West Gloucs v West Wilts

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester v Bracknell; Clifton v Hightown; Sutton Coldfield v Ipswich. First division: Blueharts v Exmouth; Canterbury v Doncaster; Ealing v Bradford Swithenbank: Wimbledon v Trojans. Second division: Great Harwood v Loughborough; Olton v Sherwood; Sunderland Bedans v Pickwick. Woking v St Albans

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Challenge Cup

Fifth round

Liverpool v Wimbledon
*Man Utd v Leeds
*Newcastle v Man City (1.0)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Derry (11.30). Monaghan v Bohemians (2.30). Shamrock v Sligo

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round replay: Home Farm v Athlone.

OTHER MATCH: Ayr v Partick (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

A international

England v Italy (at Gloucester, 3.0)

CIS under-21 divisional championship

Midlands v South-West
(at Moseley, 2.30)
North v London
(Otley, 2.30)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Birmingham (6.0); Doncaster v London (5.30); Leicester v Worthing (6.0): Leopards v Sunderland (5.0); Sheffield v Thames Valley (6.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Bitter Championship

Bradford v Hull
Doncaster v Salford
St Helens v Oldham
Wakefield v Wigan (3.30)
Warrington v Halifax
Widnes v Sheffield
Workington v Featherstone

Second division

Bramley v Leigh (1.0)
Carlisle v Dewsbury (2.0)
Huddersfield v Highfield (3.30)
Hull K R v Whitehaven (3.15)
Keighley v Barrow (3.15)
Rochdale v Batley
Ryedale York v Hunslet (3.15)
Swinton v London Broncos P

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff Devils v Basingstoke Beavers (6.30). Humberside Seahawks v Nottingham Panthers (5.45). Milton Keynes Kings v Edinburgh Racers (5.15); Peterborough Pirates v Fife Flyers (6.30). Sheffield Steelers v Bracknell Bees (6.30). Whitley Warriors v Durham Wasps (6.30). First division: Blackburn Blackhawks v Guildford (6.0). Chelmsford Chieftains v Medway (6.30); Dumfries v Paisley Pirates (5.15). Swindon Wildcats v Lee Valley (5.15): Trafford v Slough Jets (5.30)

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Havant (Birmingham Univ, 2.30); Firebrands v Indian Gymkhana (Longwood, Bristol, 2.0). Guildford v Stourport (Kings Manor School, 12.0). Hounslow v Surbiton (Chiswick Boathouse, 2.0). Reading v East Grinstead (Sonning Lane, 2.0). Slough v Old Loughtonians (Wexham School, 2.0). Southgate v Canterbury (Broomfield School, 2.0); Teddington v Cannock (Teddington School, 1.30); Trojans v Hull (Stoneham Lane, 1.30). Second division: Barford Tigers v Edgbaston (Birmingham Univ, 12.30); Beeston v Oxford University (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Bromley v Harleston Magpies (Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0). Brooklands v Whitchurch (Georges Road, Sale, 1.45). Cambridge City v Sheffield (Coldhams Common, 2.0); Crostyx v Richmond (Chigwell, 1.0); Isca v Doncaster (Exeter School, 12.30). Neston v Gloucester City (Raby Park, 2.0)

EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: B division (Meadowbank SC, Edinburgh)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World Indoor Championships (Preston).

LACROSSE: Women's national championship (Haberdashers' Aske's School)

SNOOKER: International Open (Bournemouth).

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Saturday portrait: Tim Rodber, by David Miller

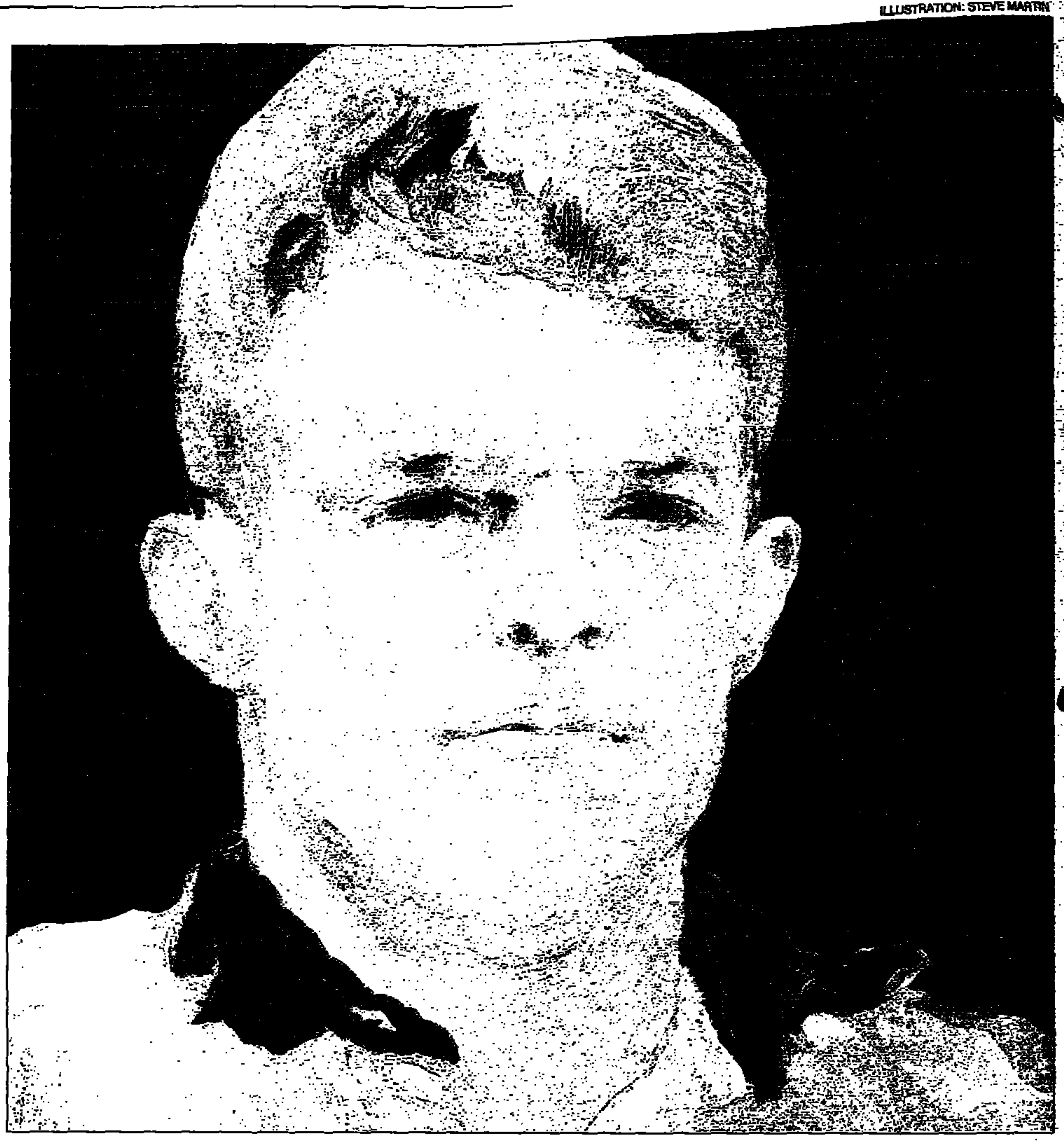


ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

Powerful all-rounder leads from the front and ranks with the best

A perception of rugby forwards, by no means inaccurate, used to be that they were the horses hauling the artillery into position through the mud, for others more intelligent to fire the shells. As forwards grew to become more dinosaur than horse, the view persisted.

Tim Rodber, the Northampton and Army flanker who helped generate a tidal wave in England's back row, is a conspicuous figure in the mould-breaking regime of Jack Rowell, the England manager: a part of the policy that forwards must be able to run, handle and think as fast as the best of the backs. Suddenly, forwards have to be game players rather than mere earth shifters.

Never mind his 17 stone, 6ft 6in frame, Rodber is a games player. Indeed, at Churcher's College, Rodber was more noted for cricket and hockey, representing Hampshire schools at under-16 and under-18 level. Yet in spite of an average of more than 60, going in at No 5, and bowling first change, he became bored. His nature demanded something more challenging.

The Army, and rugby, beckoned. The school thought he should persist with his hockey, but after a year off — brushing up his A levels for Oxford Polytechnic and spending some time in France, where he played sevens — he knew that jumping out of aeroplanes or into loose mauls, leading men by example and physical courage, fulfilled his temperamental need.

His off-duty manner gives no indication of this side of his character. Quiet spoken, one supposes that he is kind to old ladies, children and animals. The subliminal aggression, the need for tension and drama that makes him yearn to be posted to Northern Ireland or Bosnia and to be at the apex of a marauding rugby pack, is unapparent until one sees him in action against South Africa or France ... or Wales in the five nations' championship at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon.

An army scholar at 16, he chose a military career with the motivation that has for centuries drawn young men into the armed forces, the Foreign Legion. Romance. Yet his two passions are in conflict. The day he arrived at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy, the colour sergeant from the Black Watch greeted him with a smile. That morning, he had just been selected for his first cap for England, at No 8 against Scotland in 1992.

Rodber's rapid advance in rugby, subsequently switching to flanker and accelerated by Rowell's tactical shift to more open play, has frustrated his ambitions with the Green Howards. Would he have to relinquish one or the other? This past week he hopes he has resolved the difficulty.

"I went to Northern Ireland, and it was intensely frustrating to see colleagues working on patrol and to have to return home," he says. "Some of my colleagues said they would willingly swap tomorrow! But in the long term, I have decided to continue with the rugby.

> 'He knew that jumping out of aeroplanes or into loose mauls would fulfil his needs'

"There is a British Lions tour coming up, and another World Cup [in 1999] which I would hope to be in. The army's view is that if I can keep in touch with my duties, take the junior staff exams at 29 [in four years], they are happy to accept the rugby involvement."

Rodber has relished the expansive approach introduced by Rowell when he succeeded Geoff Cooke last summer, together with Les Cusworth, the coach. "If we were going to progress [against the southern hemisphere teams] we couldn't play the game of the past four seasons," he says. "We had to have that element of control by the pack, but Jack and Les wanted integrated rugby, forwards playing as backs, and that's the way we've been trying to play.

"This opened things up for me, and I think the old hands, like Brian [Moore] and Rob [Andrew], enjoyed it. Rob had previously subordinated himself to the team's style. I think people misjudged and underestimated him."

Although England have excitingly freed the ball, to find more positive opportunities for Guscott, Carling and the Underwoods, Rodber is emphatic that power remains the essence of the contemporary game: though not "war", as the South African, Ollie le Roux, ominously suggested before the first international in Pretoria last year.

"Power and aggression have to be there, allied to the skills, whether you are a prop or a wing," Rodber says. "Power has to be associated with everything you do." He believes the fear that rugby is moving down the path of American football, where size is paramount, is a negative conjecture: that there will always be scope for men with the more moderate build of Bracken or Moore.

He is convinced, however, that his own development has coincided with becoming stronger, fitter and quicker. Ian McGeechan, the former Scotland and British Isles coach, once said that Rodber "is as quick as many backs". Rodber used to be faster when lighter — around 11.4sec for 100 metres — but reckons his all-round game is now his strength.

"It takes five years to become confident at international level," he says. "When I went on tour to Argentina in '90, I wasn't ready, physically or mentally. Now, I feel I'm contributing all the time, whether on the ball or tactically."

He pays substantial tribute to the influence of the New Zealander, Wayne Shelford, his colleague at Northampton. "It was like being a little boy alongside Baggio or Klinsmann in soccer, the superstar," he says. "Shelford was always there at training, with no arrogance, and I just sat and learnt. He accelerated my development by two years."

It was on the Argentina tour that Roger Uttley, then England coach, warned Rodber, nose-to-nose so to speak, about his impetuous temper. A training session was becoming niggly. The reserves pushed back the first-team scrum. Rodber was about to pick up the ball when a boot kicked it out of his hands. He did not see whose boot, and raised his fists. The boot was Uttley's. "Control yourself, or you won't be a future international," the avuncular Uttley advised him.

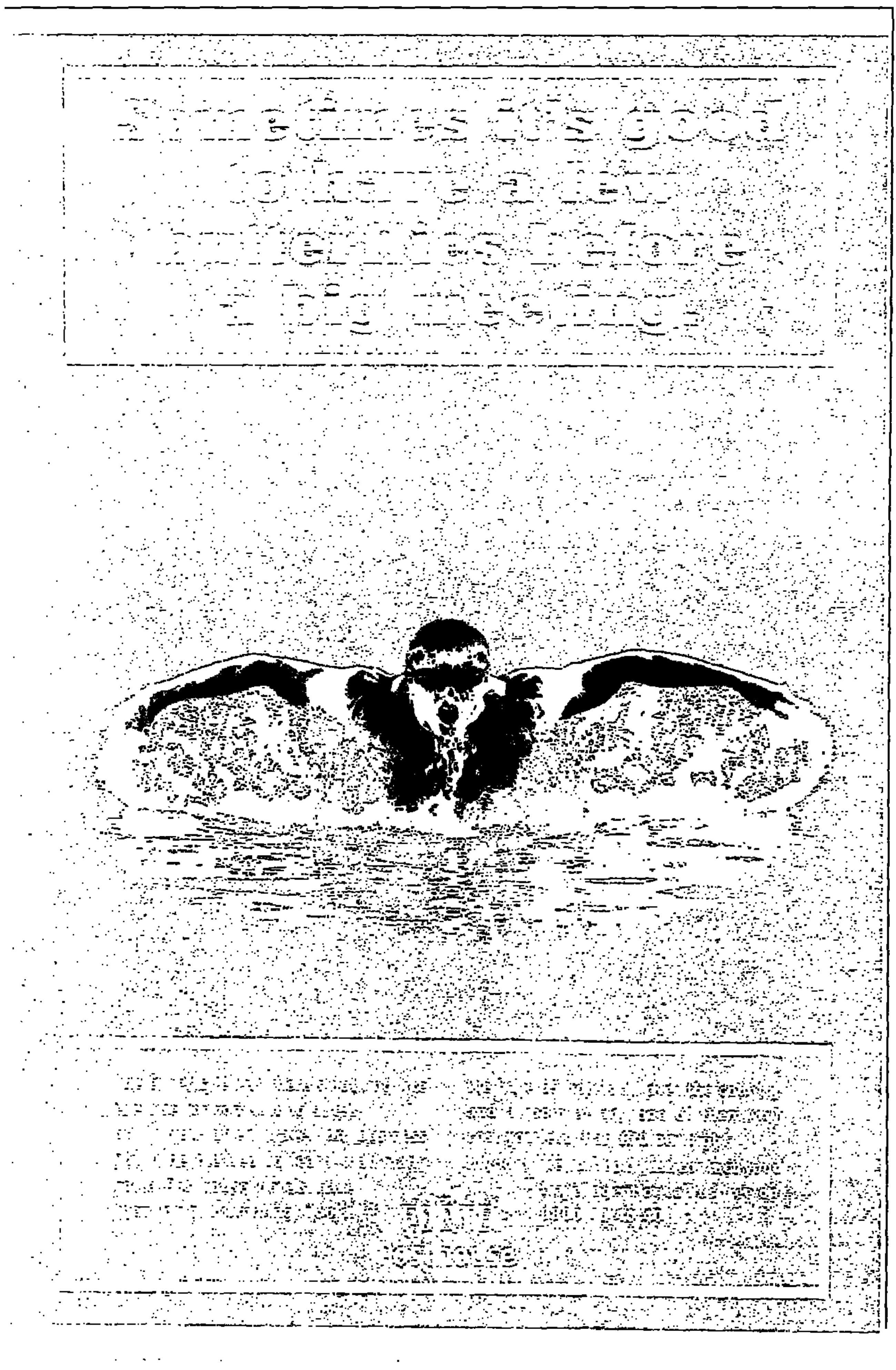
Control himself he did, until that mad moment when all restraint went out of the window in Port Elizabeth last summer, and he became only the second player representing England to be sent off.

Coming on as replacement and captain in a match already violent, with Jon Callard being monstrously injured from stamping, Rodber reproved the referee, Paul van Blommestein, asking: "What do you have to do to get sent off out here?" He soon found out, embroiled in a sustained, uncharacteristic punch-up.

"It wasn't calculated," he says. "I felt aggitated about the state of the match when I came on after five minutes. When I found myself being punched from all sides, I kept going. That was the mistake."

He admits, with hindsight, that he should have been suspended at the time, but was relieved when a subsequent three-man commission, back home, took no further action. He believes he has belatedly learned his lesson, and without any enduring damage to either of his careers. Now, like Mike Atherton in the Lancashire cricket club dressing-room, he gets his leg pulled about being an FEC — a future England captain in succession to Carling. He plays down the possibility.

"If Will retires, and I was asked, I'd love to do it, a great honour," he says. Rodber's rank will, coincidentally, rise to captain this year. Nobody doubts that he is an honorable sportsman, and a leader.



Hull need victory in struggle for survival

By Christopher Irvine

WITH a third of the rugby league season remaining, time has nearly run out for Hull. Four points adrift at the bottom of the Stones Bitter championship first division, survival demands they win tomorrow against Bradford Northern at Odsal.

Five points cover the seven sides above Hull, who have scraped just three wins in the club's worst season for more than 30 years. Defeat by Bradford would bring nearer the once unthinkable prospect of Humberside, a power base of the game in the late Seventies and early Eighties, being without a first-division club.

Hull Kingston Rovers have slackened off the second-division promotion pace. With Hull, there is the suspicion of a better team trying to get out, but luck has been in short supply at the Boulevard. Wigan and Leeds only just won there, and in five of their six last league defeats, the margin was five points or fewer.

Fate just about remains in their own hands. If they can defy the odds against Bradford, Hull's next four matches, against fellow strugglers Sheffield, Wakefield, Widnes and Featherstone, present a lifeline.

For four months, Workington filled one of the two relegation places before they embarked on a five-match winning sequence. They are not yet out of the woods, especially after losing to Widnes in midweek, and entertain a Featherstone side whose confidence is returning after four consecutive victories.

Widnes have a tricky task at home to Sheffield Eagles, but not as difficult as the one Wakefield Trinity face. Wigan have dropped just two points this season, but with a record of three defeats in their last six league visits, Belle Vue represents one of their few less happy hunting grounds.

☐ Wayne Reid, the Rochdale loose forward sent off in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup defeat against Ryedale-York on Sunday for an off-the-ball incident, was banned for four matches yesterday.

Rally backers demand a race to the Finnish

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

The idea of motor rallying is to find a nice place and then transform it into a hysterical dodgem track. Nobody really understands the sport except the Finns, to whom it is the breath of life. And all Finland is outraged by the extraordinary events of the recent Swedish Rally.

Tommi Maekinen was leading by 43 seconds going into the final stage. Just 500 yards from the finish, he stopped and parked. After a minute's rest, he finished, having handed victory to Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden. They were the orders of his boss, Andrew Cowan, the British leader of the Mitsubishi team.

The outrage is doubled by the fact that a lot of Finns had bet on Maekinen. "Mitsubishi made an unsportsmanlike, condemnable decision, which is against the morals and the ethics of sport," Raimo Dahlan, of Finnish Pools, said. But the company will not pay up on Maekinen bets: "According to the rules of the pools, the winner is the person declared as winner by the organisers." Dahlan added that the company was likely to drop rallying as a betting event.

Finnish newspapers were as one in their condemnation of the business, one paper carrying a picture of Cowan captioned: "This man took victory from Tommi." Another headline read: "This is not sport any more."

New role

Update on Tony Meola, United States goalkeeper and owner of the worst pony-tail of the World Cup. He also conceded one of the worst goals, caught on the near post by Petrescu against Romania for the only goal of the match. Meola's recent c.v. includes failure as a place-kicker in American football, indoor footy for Toronto Blizzard and a performance in the off-Broadway show, *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*. Now I learn that he has signed for no less a club than Botafogo, of Brazil. Perhaps they didn't see the Romania game.

Snap judgment

A strange friendship exists between Fidel Castro, the president of Cuba, and Jesus Gil, a still more autocratic president, master of Atlético Madrid football club and mayor of Marbella. In recognition of this friendship, Castro has sent Gil a present — a crocodile, 18 inches long and called Furia. Just what I would have chosen myself, on the coals-to-Newcastle principle.

Grim tale

Sport is grim. If anybody needed convincing about passion worthy of better causes, the events of the week will have done the job. However, the grimmest tale comes not from the football fields of Ireland, but from a gymnasium in Romania.

The country has been shocked by a legal battle surrounding the death of 11-year-old Adriana Giurca, who was beaten to death by her coach, Florin Gheorghe. Gheorghe, 25, was convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison for eight years. Giurca died from head injuries. Her mother, Maria, will not let the case rest, and has appealed to the supreme court of justice in Bucharest, saying that Gheorghe should be tried for murder, which carries a sentence of 20 years. "He treated my daughter like a beast," Giurca said. "He murdered her and should be punished for it."

Strike sacrifice

Baseball number-crunchers make cricket statisticians look like well-adjusted people. One of the matters that many have watched for a long time is Cal Ripken's approach to the record for the most consecutive games. He is a mere 122 games away from the record of 2,130, and after 13 years with Baltimore Orioles he is on course to break it this season. But will he? If the season starts with "replacement" players, even for a single game, Ripken's record attempt is disqualified. The players' union has even given Ripken permission to cross the picket lines, but Ripken has refused: union solidarity matters more than numbers.

Mind-blowing

In English football, managers merely get sacked. In the bizarre world of American college basketball, coaches crack up. Ricky Byrdsong, coach of Northwestern University, went benignly crazy during a big game and wandered off from the bench, mingling with the crowd and chatting of this and that. He later took leave of absence. Tim Grgurich, of University of Nevada, went to hospital suffering from exhaustion; his stand-in left a few games later because of "a build-up of pressure". Mike Kryzyzewski, a succesful coach with Duke University, left a couple of weeks ago complaining of "psychological wear and tear". Sport can damage your mind.

Scotland test strength of revival

Hastings believes French citadel can be stormed

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN PARIS

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

THERE is a school of thought, both in and outside France, that notwithstanding the defeat by England, the French had already written off this season's five nations' championship as a dress-rehearsal for the World Cup. Now, with the grand slam gone, that feeling has been reinforced.

Certainly, the inquest into the Twickenham setback was not as agonising as it might have been in other years. No panic changes, morale only marginally dented, and confidence in a team that had previously looked world-beaters, still high.

If France do have one eye off the ball this afternoon at Parc des Princes, in the 66th meeting between the two countries, then Scotland might, just might, have a chance.

If the Scots, with vim and vigour restored, can get amongst the opposition, perhaps sneak an early score, and if Gavin Hastings, the captain, already with a Scottish record of 84 points against France, can kick his goals, then France might crack.

If not, with the pressure off and the sun on their backs — the weather forecast is good — the French could, if they rediscover some continuity, put on the sort of performance of which they alone are capable. Whichever way one looks at it, Scotland face a daunting task. They have been written off by the French media, although Pierre Berbizier, the national coach, has repeatedly warned against complacency.

"We have too much respect for Scotland to be presumptuous," he said. "They tell us Scotland do not have a great team. But in the five nations' championship there is no such thing as a great or a weak team."

To win, Scotland have to be bold. Damage limitation must not be the extent of their ambition. Containment will not be sufficient. If France are allowed to build up a head of steam, Scotland will be doomed. It is asking a lot of a relatively young and inexperienced team.

"We are a new side but that doesn't mean we are incapable of upsetting France. The confidence we have gained from the past two games [wins against Canada and Ireland] will stand us in good stead," Hastings said.

Damian Cronin, who plays his club rugby for Bourges, believes it "important the younger players don't get swallowed up by the atmosphere. It's up to the experienced guys to lead by example."

Cronin, and Dougie Morgan, the Scotland coach, are not the only ones to think that the inclusion of Olivier Brouzet at lock, at the expense of Olivier Merle, is a mistake and that the lineout will prove a productive area for Scotland. And given that France, and Laurent Cabannes in particular, have started to bicker in recent days, then perhaps all is not lost.

Scotland will have to tackle, tackle and tackle again. Ian Jardine and a solid back row are certainly the men for that job, but one can only hope that Jardine and Gregor Townsend develop more of a cutting edge in midfield to create space for Kenny Logan and Craig Joiner, who incidentally was not even born the last time Scotland won in Paris.

That was in 1969 and Jim Telfer, thedirector of rugby, would be a rich man if he had received royalties for each occasion on which the flickering black and white images of his match-winning try have been replayed.

The weight of history is against Scotland in a match which will help mark the 700th anniversary of the Auld Alliance. The Scots have lost on their past 12 visits to Paris and have never won at Parc des Princes in the modern era. Since 1973, France have lost only six times at home, five of those games being against England. They have conceded just one try at their own headquarters in their last six five nations' matches, while scoring 18. Impressive statistics.

Impressive, too, was their final public workout at Chateau Ricard on Thursday. With Berbizier barking, France went through their full repertoire. It was hard and physical, in a word, awesome. Bill McLaren described it as one of the best sessions he had seen.

This week, the French complained about the tempo at which the band had played *La Marseillaise* before the game against Wales. They want it played more slowly. Strange that, but then France have always danced to a different tune. Scotland can only hope they are off-key.

☐ England's students maintained their unbeaten record this season when they beat the Welsh Students 27-10 in blustery conditions at Swansea yesterday. The coherence of their back row gave England a significant advantage, though Singer's runaway try in the final minute put an additional gloss on the margin.

SCORERS: Welsh Students: Try: Whittle. Conversion: A Thomas. Penalty goal: A Thomas. English Students: Tries: Allen, Singer. Conversion: Simpson. Penalty goals: Simpson 4. Dropped goal: Ryan

Auld Alliance, page 6

Cronin: local knowledge

Cabannes: grumbling

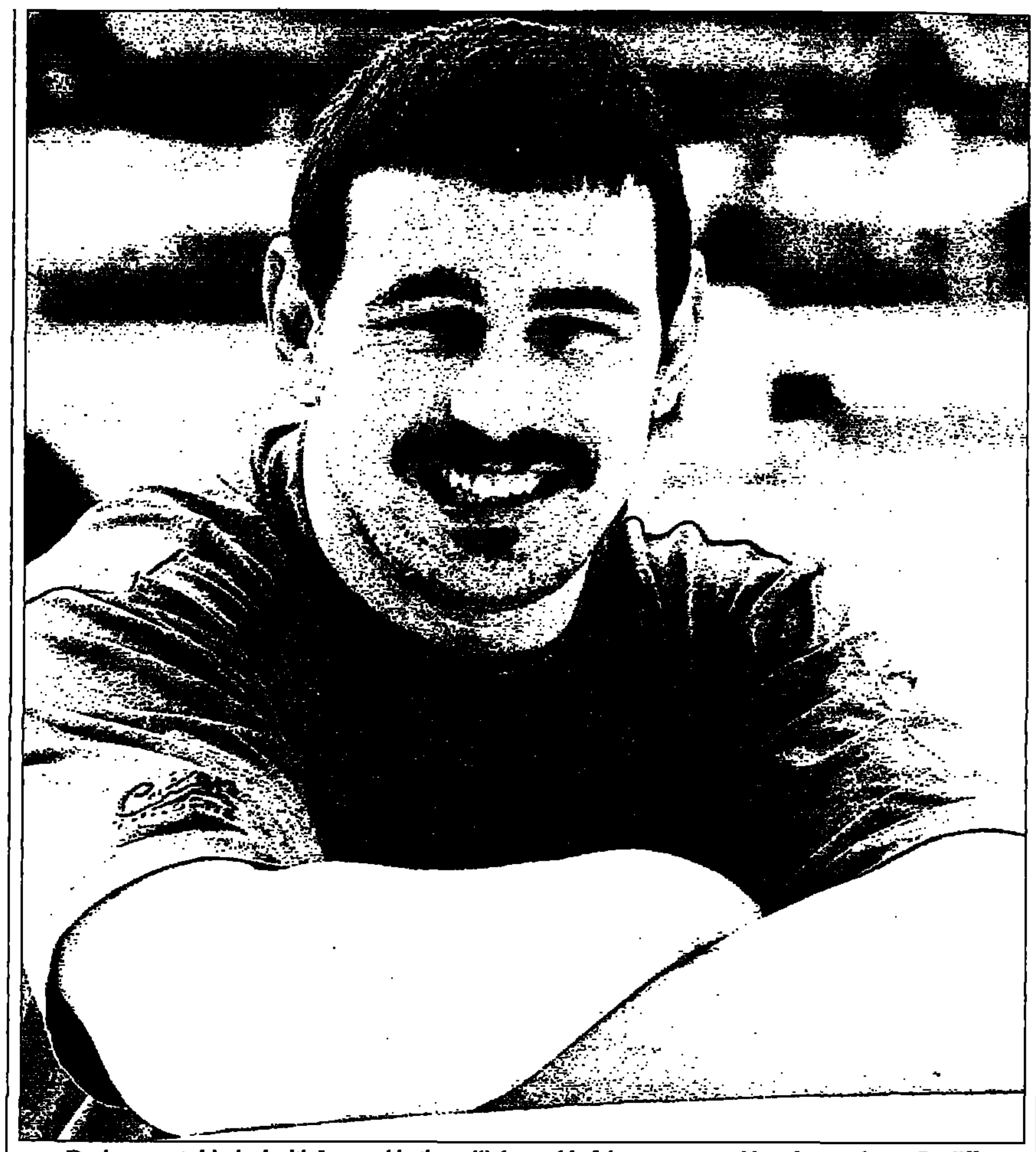
PARIS TEAMS

FRANCE		SCOTLAND
J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)	15	A G Hastings (Watsonians)*
P Bernat-Salles (Pau)	14	C A Joiner (Melrose)
P Sella (Agen)	13	G P J Townsend (Gala)
T Lacroix (Dax)	12	I C Jardine (Stirling County)
P Saint-André (Montferrand)*	11	K M Logan (Stirling County)
C Deylaud (Toulouse)	10	C M Chalmers (Melrose)
G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux)	9	B W Redpath (Melrose)
C Califano (Toulouse)	1	D I W Hilton (Bath)
J-M Gonzalez (Bayonne)	2	K S Milne (Heriot's FP)
L Seigne (Brive)	3	P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
A Benazzi (Agen)	6	R I Wainwright (West Hartlepool)
O Brouzet (Grenoble)	4	D F Cronin (Bourges)
O Roumat (Dax)	5	S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)
L Cabannes (Racing)	7	I R Morrison (London Scottish)
P Benetton (Agen)	8	E W Peters (Bath)
*captain		*captain

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland)

Replacements: 16 S Viars (Brive), 17 Y Delaigue (Toulon), 18 A Macabiau (Perpignan), 19 M Cécillon (Bourgoin), 20 O Merle (Montferrand), 21 M de Rougemont (Toulon).

Replacements: 16 I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), 17 A G Shiel (Melrose), 18 D W Patterson (West Hartlepool), 19 G W Weir (Melrose), 20 J Manson (Dundee HSFP), 21 K D McKenzie (Stirling County)



Davies expects his duel with Leonard in the twilight world of the scrum to end in a draw today at Cardiff and looks forward to having a drink with the England prop afterwards. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Prop ploughs hard furrow for Wales

Gerald Davies is given an insight into the lifestyle forced on John Davies, Wales's farmer prop

John Davies is a farmer. He lives in a green, sometimes pleasant but mostly — with the lowering clouds over the distant Preseli mountains — beautifully dramatic landscape. This is that fair country where *Sir Aberteifi* and *Sir Benfro* meet. Only south of the A40 would the counties be called Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire. North of it represents one of the heartlands of the Welsh language.

Davies, at 16½st and 5ft 11in, with Welsh tripping from his tongue, and a ready smile on his face, is moulded from this earth. He also plays rugby for Wales. This is his secondary credential. The distinction is necessary and it is worth remembering that Davies is an ordinary man caught up in extraordinary circumstances.

The order of priorities is perceived as changing in the rugby world. Today, there are players who are seen almost exclusively as rugby players who just happen to be employed as public relations men, say, or business consultants. The day job is seen as rugby. Rugby players have their patrons.

Yet, in considering this scenario, spare a thought for the farmer. No player — neither Welsh nor English — at the Arms Park today will have anywhere near as hard a taskmaster as the one who dictates to John Davies: Nature — and there is nothing remotely motherly about it — and the relentless turn of the seasons insists on a captive's discipline.

As the Wales tight-head prop, he trained on Monday evening and by midnight had returned to attend to the demands of his dairy, beef and sheep farm. A back injury recently ensured he was not quite up to it.

"Weeks can be written off during the five nations' championship," Davies said. "You play a game on Saturday and, as in my case, strain a ligament in my back. Then, I find I can't do much on the farm and by the time I am ready again, as this week, I shall be away from home from Wednesday through to Sunday.

'I know from the first scrum what sort of game I'll have'

"I am lucky in that this is a traditional Welsh farm and with my wife, Veronica, my mother, brother and sister we can run it as a family. But there are certain things that Veronica, for example, simply can't do. I do need to employ other men."

The £40 a day compensation allowed under International Rugby Football Board regulations does not cover his needs. During the six weeks of the World Cup in South Africa, he could be out of pocket by £4,000. Since he will be away at a critical time in the farming year, upon which the winter months depend so much, a contractor will be called in.

"But a rugby player's life is short," Davies, 25, said. "And so long as I get my family's backing, I will play on."

He is developing into a world-class prop and had to mature quickly. He began playing rugby at Preseli School, Crymmych. At 18, he began playing for Neath. His father died in the autumn of 1990 and at 21, he became responsible for the 200-acre farm, as well as engaging in the demands of international rugby.

"I know from the first scrum what sort of game I'm likely to have; confidence can spring from it," he said on the eve of his seventeenth cap. "If it is comfortable, then so much can be created. It was the solid scrum that gave Scott Quinnell his running opportunities against France last year.

"International rugby is about big, strong, experienced men playing a hard game. I wish that I had done more weight training, but it is a question of time. Farm work keeps me naturally strong." He expects that his duel with Jason Leonard, whom he respects, will end in a draw today.

He is proud that he is thought of as "no ordinary prop", suggesting that he interprets his role beyond ploughing his furrow in the twilight zone of the scrum. One of the thrilling sights at The Gnoll is to see him materialise in the loose, to pick up the ball from his ankles at speed and drive some 30 metres into the heart of the opposition's defence. He draws attention, and, with such good hands, he is a great favourite.

For all his competitiveness, he brings a farmer's healthy perspective to sport. The glint in his eye, the mischievous chuckle and the way he looks forward to sharing a drink with Leonard means that nothing, simply nothing, can be as serious as his and his farm's vulnerability to the switches of seasonal mood. With rugby's increasing demands and the move to semi-professionalism, is he, a rugby-playing farmer, the last of his breed? Is rugby to be a sport for, none other than, the public relations men? In which case, it might be a great shame that the likes of John Davies cannot, in the future, grace the game.

Records expected at zenith of indoor campaign

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AN INDOOR season barely past halfway, but which has yielded ten world records, gathers in momentum in Lievin, northern France, tomorrow. Lievin is the Zurich of the winter circuit and performances there may prove superior to those that will be achieved in Barcelona next month at the world championships. A world record or two, at least, is expected.

For the past three years, Lievin has finished top of the International Amateur Athletic Federation winter meeting evaluations. This is the track on which both 200 metres world records were set, by Bruno Marie-Rose, of France, with 20.36sec in 1987, and by Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, with 21.87sec in 1993. Both could fall tomorrow.

If Frankie Fredericks does not beat him to it, John Regis may add the British flag to the world record colours hoisted by athletes from the United States, Kenya, Russia and China this season. Irina Privalova looks ready to take Ottey's record. The Russian, with Ottey against her, should embellish her season's work, which includes a 50 metres world record of 5.96sec on her way to equalling her own 60 metres record of 6.92sec.

Regis meets Fredericks, the outdoor world champion from Namibia, for the first time this season. After maintaining his season's unbeaten record in Glasgow last weekend, Regis said that he felt capable of between 20.20sec and 20.30sec. Michael Johnson, who set a 400 metres world record last weekend, did not respond to his invitation.

Sun Caiyun, from China, set her fifth pole vault world record of the season in Erfurt on Wednesday. They have each been achieved at a different German venue. With clever response to criticism that she was maximising her earnings by going up one centimetre at a time, she said, after clearing 4.13 metres in Karlsruhe last Sunday: "I want as many German people as possible to share in my record."

The cynicism follows Sergey Bubka's unashamed use of the centimetre rule to make sure that his next record, and bonus payment, is no more challenging than it need be. Seemingly stung by the suggestion that her athletic performance should be financially-led, Sun did not bother with 4.14 metres in Erfurt, but raised her record straight to 4.15 metres and even attempted 4.25 metres.

She has set 14 world records indoors and out, while Bubka is on 35. He may be inspired to his 36th in a field that includes six men who have cleared 5.80 metres this year.

Nobody could live with Moses Kiptanui when he set a 3,000 metres world record in Gent on Sunday; now, Fermin Cacho and Eric Debus will try. Linford Christie (60 metres), Allen Johnson (60 metres hurdles) and Javier Sotomayor (high jump) lead strong line-ups. Marie-José Pérec, France's favourite athlete, wanted too much money to run in the 60 metres hurdles.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 87 New York 96; New Jersey 100 Denver 94; Houston 105 Charlotte 89; Milwaukee 85 Cleveland 106; Utah 120 San Antonio 113. Sacramento 98 Los Angeles Lakers 82
NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Thames Valley 99 (Scantlebury 25, Holley 24, Bucknall 22) Leopards 83 (Brown 22, Miller 19, Deveaux 18) (179-169 on agg).
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 83 (Lewis 27, Windless 16, Henlan 13) Derby Bucks 76 (Siemon 21, Belka 17, Horton 10).

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Sheffield	26	24	2	2022	1694	48
Doncaster	23	19	4	2017	1834	38
London Towers	25	18	7	2154	1920	36
Manchester	25	18	7	2151	1872	36
Thames	24	18	6	2253	1985	36
Leopards	24	15	9	2129	1936	30
Worthing	23	12	11	2019	1980	24
Birmingham	24	10	14	2027	2023	20
Derby	25	6	19	2031	2187	12
Hemel	28	6	22	2232	3655	12
Leicester	23	6	17	1714	1893	12
Chester	24	3	21	1903	2191	6
Sunderland	22	3	19	1703	2185	6

EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Real Madrid (Sp) 69 PAOK Salonika (Gr) 52; CSKA Moscow (Russ) 87 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Is) 78. Benfica (Por) 69 Pesaro (It) 88; Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 74 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 90. Group B: Efes Pilsen (Tur) 81 Barcelona (Sp) 76; Limoges (Fr) 76 Joventut Badalona (Sp) 67. Olympiakos (Gr) 89 Bologna (It) 64.

BOBSLEIGH

LILLEHAMMER: British inter-services championships: 1, Army, 10min 47.81sec; 2, RAF, 10:52.59; 3, Royal Navy, 10:58.01. Top drivers: 1, S Olsson (Army). 2, T DeLaHunty (RAF)

BOWLS

PRESTON: Churchill Insurance world indoor championship: Singles: First round: A Thomson (Eng) bt D Le Marquand (Jersey) 7-5, 7-2, 7-1.
YETTON TROPHY (women's inter-club championship): Quarter-finals: Boston 86 Cumbria 79; Beccles 84 Riverain 69; Egham 75 Croydon 64; Adur 76 Plymouth Civil Service 74

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Adelaide: South Australia 397 and 342-6 (B Johnson 168, D Lehmann 78). Western Australia 333. Melbourne: Victoria 293 and 141-6 (D Jones 76, Mike Kasprowicz 4-48); Queensland 294-9 dec (M Hayden 89, B Williams 5-88).
CASTLE CUP (first day of four) Johannesburg: Eastern Province 338-7 (E Baptiste 75, L Koen 54, P Amm 51; R Lyle 4-61) v Transvaal. Bloemfontein: Western Province 186 (H D Ackerman 55; F Stephenson 5-65); Orange Free State 121-0 (G Liebenberg 66 not out). East London: Border v Natal — no play because of rain

FOOTBALL

KING'S CUP: Thailand 4 China 1 (in Bangkok)
Late results on Thursday
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round: Postponed: Yeovil v Stevenage; Farnborough v Rushden and Diamonds
FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round replays: Postponed: Cork v UCD. Monaghan v Douglas H
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Norwich City 1 Brighton 3
ENGLISH SCHOOLS TROPHY: Fifth round: Aldershot 2, Newport 3. Under-19: Second round: Luton SFC, Bedfordshire 4, Hampton, Surrey 2. Under-19: Second round replay: Swanwick Hall 2, Darwen Vale HS, Lancashire 1.
LONDON CUP: Under-15: Middlesex 6, Kent 2.
ENGLISH KNOWLES CUP: Under-14: Middlesex 1, Kent 0.
LIBERTADORES CUP: Group 2: Trujillanos (Ven) 1 Caracas FC (Ven) 3. Olimpia (Par) 1 Cerro Porteno (Par) 1. Group 3: Atletico Nacional (Col) 0 Millonarios (Col) 0. Group 5: Wilstermann (Bol) 2 Alianza (Peru) 1
SPANISH CUP: Third round, second leg: Valencia 2 Real Madrid 1 (Valencia win 4-2 on agg)

GOLF

HONOLULU: Hawaiian Women's Open: First round (United States unless stated) 67: M Hirata (Japan), D Coe-Jones (Can) 68: B Thomas, R Heiken, B Burton, L A Mills. European scores: 69: K Marshall (GB). A Sorenstam (Swe) 70: C Hjalmarsson (Swe) 71: C Nilsmark (Swe) 72: L Neumann (Swe), C Matthew (GB), C Pierce (GB). Other Britons: 74: A Nicholas 75: P Wright 77: S Strudwick.
HUNTINGDALE, MELBOURNE: Australian Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 139: P Senior 69, 70. 140: A Stolz 72, 68; J Daly (US) 71, 69. 141: I Garbutt (GB) 68, 73; T Watson (US) 69, 72; L Parsons 73, 68. 142: P Teravainen (US) 68, 74: R Allenby 69, 73. 143: M Cain 71, 72; M Stevens (US) 72, 71. M Clayton 75, 68, R Stephens 73, 70. S Conran 71, 72. 144: S Owen (NZ) 73, 71; D Small (NZ) 71, 73; P O'Malley 71, 73; W Grady 72, 72; P Moss (US) 72, 72; A Gilligan 75, 69. G Moorhead (NZ) 72, 72; R Swanson 70, 74. T Price 74, 70. 145: S Scahill (NZ) 74, 71. B Hughes 74, 71. C Parry 73, 72; D Iwasaki-Smith 74, 71; G Kenny 74, 71. D Cole 70, 75. D Dunakey (US) 71, 74. J Dawes 74, 71. C Spence 70, 75. R Whitlock 72, 73. R Gibson (Can) 74, 71
PALM SPRINGS, California: Bob Hope Classic: Second round (United States unless stated): 130: H Taylor 66, 64. 133: T Armour III 66, 67. C Perry 66, 67. 134: K Fergus 65, 69; M Wurtz 67, 67. K Perry 63, 71; R Freeman 64, 70. J Acosta 66, 68. M Dawson 64, 70. 135: D Pruitt 65, 70; T Simpson 67, 68. M Brooks 67, 68. M Wurtz 67, 68. F Funk 66, 69. S Simpson 66, 69. D Duval 67, 68. J Furyk 70, 65. J Edwards 70, 65. P Burke 68, 67. T Tyner 67, 68. P Stankowski 71, 64

HOCKEY

RUSSELSHEIM, Germany: European womens' indoor club championship: Pool A: Eurovil (Lith) 11 Stade Francais (Fr) 5. Pool B: Slough 5 Rotterdam (Holl) 3.
TOUR MATCH: Oxford University 2 Lomas (Arg) 2
BOURNEMOUTH: Women's territorial tournament: Under-18: West 2 South 2. Midlands 4 East 1; North 3 South 1. Under-16: Midlands 4 East 0. West 0 North 3. South 1 Midlands 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 2 Montreal 2 (overtime); Pittsburgh 5 Hartford 2; Philadelphia 2 Quebec 4. Chicago 2 Calgary 2 (overtime)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Harlequins 15 La Tablada (Arg) 12. Cancelled: Kilmarnock v Glasgow High; Maesteg v Nantyffyllon; Edinburgh Academicals v Corstorphine; Edinburgh Wanderers v Watsonians. Cross Keys v Pontypool Utd, Llanelli v Wasps. Pontypool v Gloucester. Treorchy v Hartridge HSOB. Wigtownshire v Ardrossan Acads.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Wales Students 10 England Students 27. Welsh Universities 32 English Universities 7. Postponed: Wales Students v England Students.

SKIING

ARE, Sweden: World Cup: Women's downhill: 1, P Street (US) 1min 9.11sec; 2, K Seizinger (Ger) 1:09.52. 3, I Kostner (It) 1.10.02; 4, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:10.09. 5, K Pace (Can) 1:10.20. 6, H Lindh (US) 1:10.21. Leading downhill standings (after six races) 1, Street 409 pts. 2, Lindh 380. 3, Seizinger 346. 4, Kostner 206. 5, B Merlin (It) 203; 6, Zurbriggen 182. Leading overall standings: 1, Seizinger 879. 2, H Zeller-Bahler (Switz) 776. 3, V Schneider (Switz) 662. 4, Street 605. 5, M Ertl (Ger) 555. 6, A Wachter (Austria) 493
LA CLUSAZ, France: World freestyle championships: Ballet: Finals: Men. 1, R Kristiansen (Nor) 25.75pts. 2, F Becker (Fr) 25.10. 3, H Baumgartner (Switz) 24.25. Women: 1, E Batalova (Russ) 26.65. 2, E Breen (US) 23.55. 3, A Johansson (Swe) 25.05. British placing: 10, V Simpson 21.20

SWIMMING

MALMÖ: World Cup short-course meeting: Winners: Men: Freestyle: 50m: A Popov (Russ) 22.15sec. 200m: Danyon Loader (NZ) 1.46.62. 1,500m: S Zesner (Ger) 14.41.02. Backstroke: 50m: J Rouse (US) 25.03. 200m: V Selkov (Russ) 1:54.16. Breaststroke: 100m: F Deburghgraeve (Bel) 59.68. Butterfly: 100m: E Clasen (Nor) 53.81. Medley: 200m: L Sacchi (It) 1.59.47. Women: Freestyle: 100m: F van Almsick (Ger) 54.43. 400m: M Nisson (Swe) 4.06.74. Backstroke: 100m D Komorowicz (Pol) 1.00.63. Breaststroke: 50m: Elin Austevoll (Nor) 32.31. 200m: B Becue (Bel) 2.27.26

TENNIS

MEMPHIS: Men's tournament: Third round: A Boetsch (Fr) bt L Rehmann (Ger) 2-6, 7-6, 7-5; G Rusedski (Can) bt A Krickstein (US) 6-4, 7-6; P Sampras bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-2, 6-2; M Chang bt V Spadea 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. T Martin bt R Reneberg 6-1, 6-4; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt J Yzaga (Peru) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. J Stark bt J Palmer 6-4, 7-6. T Enqvist (Swe) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-4, 6-1
MILAN: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: P Korda (Cz) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-4, 6-3. G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-3, 6-3.
OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament: Second round: E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt K Miller (US) 6-0, 6-0. L Raymond (US) bt D Monami (Bel) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2. A Frazier (US) bt Y Basting (Holl) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. A Keller (US) bt N Bradtke (Aus) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6
PARIS: Women's indoor tournament: Second round: S Appelmans (Bel) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-2, 6-2. Quarter-final: S Graf (Ger) bt M Hingis (Switz) 6-2, 6-3. J Novotna (Cz) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. M Pierce (Fr) bt J Wiesner (Austria) 6-2, 6-4
COVENTRY: LTA men's indoor satellite tournament: Quarter-finals: P Hand (GB) bt P Pala (Cz) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; P Fredriksson (Swe) bt R Wassen (Holl) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4. T Ketola (Fin) bt T Zdrazila (Cz) 6-2, 6-2. M Navarra (It) bt N Godwin (SA) 4-3, ret.
SUNDERLAND: LTA women's satellite tournament: Semi-finals: M Marfina (Russ) bt J Yi (China) 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. S Gerke (Ger) bt O Ivanova (Russ) 7-5, 6-1

Higgins maintains relentless progress

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS is within one victory of his third successive snooker final after beating Ewan Henderson 5-2 in the Sweater Shop International Open tournament in Bournemouth yesterday. Higgins, runner-up in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley six days ago, laid the foundation for another comfortable success by establishing a 4-0 lead at the mid-session interval.

The Scot, 19, required a blue-to-black clearance to steal the third frame, but otherwise he produced a level of dominance almost equal to that which carried him to a 5-0 whitewash of Ken Doherty in the first round.

Higgins, up from 51st to sixteenth in the provisional world rankings, compiled breaks of 88, 84 and 60 in the first half of the match, but afterwards mistakes crept in and Henderson recovered to trail only 4-2 with runs of 53 and 48.

Indeed, Henderson, the world No 119 from Glenrothes, who was making his debut in the quarter-final of a ranking event after wins over James Wattana, Dennis Taylor and Terry Griffiths, had the initial opportunity to pot a re-spotted black in the seventh frame. However, he marginally over-cut his attempt to a baulk pocket and Higgins stepped in to secure a semi-final over the best of 11 frames today against John Parrott, the holder, who had earlier beaten Alan McManus 5-1.

Despite a modest high break of only 38, Parrott led 3-1. He won the fifth frame after facing a 50-0 deficit with a 62 clearance to the pink, before adding contributions of 46 and 31 in the sixth.

Mark Johnston-Allen, who achieved one of the most surprising results of the season when he edged Stephen Hendry, the world champion, 5-4 in the first round on Monday, caused another upset late on Thursday by beating Ronnie O'Sullivan, winner of the Masters last week, 5-2 to reach the quarter-finals.

O'Sullivan never settled into his usual rhythm after a frustrating start. In the opening frame he compiled a 61 break only to miss an elementary black off its spot, and Johnston-Allen eventually drew first blood with a clearance of the colours.

RESULTS: Third round: A McManus (Scot) bt M Hallett (Eng) 5-1; J Parrott (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-2. J White (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-2; M Johnston-Allen (Eng) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-2. Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt D Henderson (Scot) 5-2; J Parrott (Eng) bt McManus 5-1

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12/1	6-10 Pts	9/2
28/1	11-15 Pts	4/1
50/1	16-20 Pts	9/2

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11/2	6-10 Pts	16/1
4/1	11-15 Pts	33/1
4/1	16-20 Pts	66/1

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THE FINNISH

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18 1995

England's World Cup plans arrive at Cardiff crossroads

Guscott, the England centre, makes the most of the friendly foe in Cardiff yesterday before hostilities begin against Wales today. Photograph: Barry Batchelor

Wales to provide sternest test

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

EACH step on rugby union's five nations' championship road leads remorselessly to the World Cup this summer. It is Wales's misfortune that, in turn, they have faced two of the favourites for that competition and have lost. Today, in Cardiff, they face a third, England, and stand in danger of losing once more.

When they played South Africa in November, Wales emerged from defeat with credit. They had found a tight five which even England concede is of formidable quality.

FIVE NATIONS'

CHAMPIONSHIP

Yet, against France in Paris last month they derived little benefit, and, given the control which England have exercised in beating Ireland and France, Wales can enter the Arms Park in the Scottish Life international today only as second favourites.

That is a situation they will relish. "It's a great game for us to go into as massive underdogs," Robert Norster, the team manager, said. He, of all people, need not remind England of their dire record in Cardiff, and the remark of Clive Rowlands, his predecessor, has passed into legend.

Asked after heavy defeat by New Zealand in the semi-finals of the 1987 World Cup what was left for Wales, Rowlands grinned and said: "We go back to beating England."

England, however, have won four of the last five encounters, and three defeats in a row this season would beg questions of Welsh morale. Conversely, victory would bring England to the brink of a grand slam and a potential cash bonus as the amateur concept sinks slowly in the south.

As the Australian Rugby Union confirmed yesterday player contracts that are capable of leaving their leading players £40,000 better off, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) believes that England squad members can take up to £15,000 from their rugby fame if they can sustain their success.

Promotional activities are already expected to earn England players £10,000 this season, and Malcolm Phillips, the chairman of the RFU's joint working party with the players, believes that an elite sponsor can be attracted after the World Cup.

"We believe there is a greater potential for earning capacity later in the year and we are hopeful that the rewards can reach £15,000," Phillips said.

Australia's players will study, in training camp in Brisbane this weekend, the contracts in which their responsibilities to the union and to sponsors are outlined.

"I don't think this will turn the game professional," Rod McCall, the Queensland lock, said. "It's just a small step along the way. It's also a way for the union to finally guarantee their investment in players."

It is hard to know what McCall might consider a worthwhile professional return, but Phillips stressed, on England's part, that "the sums we are talking about represent reward for considerable effort and are not amounts a player would leave his job for. That is something we want to avoid".

The players may remain nominal amateurs, but they are hedged round with professionalism, in their individual and collective preparation. Wales represent the job in hand, but plans are afoot to dispatch observers to South America, South Africa and Italy, to watch the opponents that England will meet in the World Cup's pool B in Durban.

No Welshman, though, would seek a win bonus for grinding English faces into the mud. That is part of the Welsh rugby player's birthright, but, if they are to do so, they have first to sustain lineout parity — or better — in the duel between the two 6ft 10in giant policemen, Derwyn Jones and Martin Bayfield, and then use the tactical awareness of Robert Jones on his fiftieth appearance for his country.

Nigel Davies reflected the upbeat mood of his countrymen when he insisted that Wales must "play the game on our own terms". That may be easier said than done on a muddy pitch (both teams trained yesterday amid vicious hail storms) and against England's marauding back row.

"The only way to stop them is by very aggressive gain-line tackling," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said, which is why the return of Hemi Taylor at flanker has been greeted with such relief.

Of all England's opponents, Wales will surely test the back three — Mike Catt and the Underwood brothers — to a far greater degree than Ireland and France did. Catt's defensive duties have been incredibly light so far, but he will expect the Wales half backs to make up for that if, as Nigel Davies hopes, Wales can carry the game to the enemy.

Even if they do, can they score tries, rather than rely on the goal-kicking of Neil Jenkins?

That used to be the charge levelled at England, but not this season. Their return in Cardiff — nine in the past 30 years — may be nothing to write home about, but this season they have amassed 18 tries in four internationals with a variety in their playing style which has allowed them to miss several more gilt-edged opportunities.

These have been embellished by the direction brought to the game by Rob Andrew and his goal-kicking. Andrew, 32 today, stands 11 short of Jonathan Webb's England record of 296 career points. He may not achieve that target this afternoon, but victory would be a more-than-adequate birthday present.

CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES		ENGLAND
A Clement (Swansea)	15	M J Catt (Bath)
I C Evans (Llanelli)*	14	T Underwood (Leicester)
M Taylor (Pontypool)	13	W D C Carling (Harlequins)*
N G Davies (Llanelli)	12	J C Guscott (Bath)
N Walker (Cardiff)	11	R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)
N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)	10	C R Andrew (Wasps)
R N Jones (Swansea)	9	K P P Bracken (Bristol)
M Griffiths (Cardiff)	1	J Leonard (Harlequins)
G R Jenkins (Swansea)	2	B C Moore (Harlequins)
J D Davies (Neath)	3	V E Ubogu (Bath)
H T Taylor (Cardiff)	6	T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)
D Jones (Cardiff)	4	M O Johnson (Leicester)
G O Llewellyn (Neath)	5	M C Bayfield (Northampton)
R G Collins (Pontypridd)	7	B B Clarke (Bath)
E W Lewis (Cardiff)	8	D Richards (Leicester)
*captain		*captain

Referee: D Mené (France)

Replacements: 16 M Back (Bridgend), 17 R H StJ B Moon (Llanelli), 18 S Davies (Swansea), 19 P T Davies (Llanelli), 20 H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), 21 R C McBryde (Llanelli)

Replacements: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 C D Morris (Orrell), 19 S O Ojomoh (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 G C Rowntree (Leicester)

FIVE NATIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	51	18	4
Scotland	1	1	0	0	26	13	2
France	2	1	0	1	31	40	2
Wales	1	0	0	1	9	21	0
Ireland	2	0	0	2	21	46	0

RESULTS: Ireland 8 England 20, France 21 Wales 9, England 31 France 10, Scotland 26 Ireland 13

FIXTURES: Today: Wales v England, France v Scotland. March 4: Scotland v Wales, Ireland v France. March 18: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland

FORM GUIDE: Wales v England: Of 100 meetings Wales have won 48, England 40 and there have been 12 draws. Of 49 matches played on Welsh soil since 1883 England have won 14, the last in 1991

France v Scotland: In 65 matches France have won 32, Scotland 30 and three have been drawn. Of 32 matches played on French soil since 1911, Scotland have won nine, the last in 1969

Captain on guard 1
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Battle for Hastings 47
Prop ploughs on 47

Injury likely to shorten Graf's glittering career

Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent, says that fitness worries could force the best woman player into early retirement

EVEN if Steffi Graf regains her status as the world's leading player by capturing the Open Gaz de France title tomorrow, as is expected, her supremacy in women's tennis has perhaps already drawn to a close. Her career could be over even sooner than had been thought.

An informed and respected source within the Women's Tennis Association Tour disclosed in Paris that the back injury sustained by Graf last year may lead to her premature retirement. Returning from an absence of five months, apart from one brief outing in New York, Graf, at the age of 25, has effectively embarked on a last hurrah.

Bombarded by questions about her physical condition this week, Graf has insisted that she is feeling no adverse effects from the bone spur in her lower spine. No, she has not needed to adjust her game: yes, she can swing freely: no, she cannot sense any restriction of movement.

Nevertheless, in declining to undergo an operation that would put her out for at least another six months and carries no guarantee of a complete cure, she runs the risk of being afflicted by referred complaints. Her body would inevitably attempt to compensate for the original problem.

A pulled calf muscle, which forced her to miss the Australian Open last month, may not have been the consequence merely of overzealous training. "My deepest concern," she said, after admitting to a drop in her level of concentration and a lack of match practice, "is my health and fitness."

For as long as she manages to maintain her customary standard, Graf will remain a force. Given her psychological reservations about her well-being, though, she can scarcely expect to recapture the conviction she demonstrated little more than a year ago when, for the second time in her life, she was the holder of the four grand slam titles.

She has since lost all of them — the French and US Open to Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, Wimbledon to Conchita Martinez, and the Australian Open to Mary Pierce. Suffering from what was initially reported to be a stress fracture in her back, she reached only one final.

So clear was Graf's lead in the convoluted ranking system that she was deposed only a fortnight ago by Sánchez Vicario. As the runner-up in Melbourne, there can be little dispute that the pugnacious Spaniard earned the honour, however briefly she retains it, during Graf's enforced hibernation.

Although Graf professes to be pursuing "personal satisfaction" rather than accumulating trophies, the grand slam championships have been, are, and always will be used as virtually the only gauge by which players are rated. With 15, the German already has her place as the fifth most successful woman in history. At present, there is only one competitor who seems remotely capable of surpassing her feats — and that prospect lies far in the future.

Graf: great champion

She is, as Graf herself intimated after she had beaten her in Paris on Thursday night, Martina Hingis. Once the 14-year-old Swiss has developed her slender frame, she promises to be as dominant in the senior ranks as she was in the juniors, where she captured the French Open title twice and also Wimbledon.

Hingis joined the profession, coincidentally, as Graf was temporarily leaving it in October. They are unlikely to grace it for long together, sadly, and the other leading contenders would be advised to make the most of a transitional period of perhaps a couple of years.

Wilkinson is glad to put pressure to one side

Wilkinson: hoping to oust Cup-holders

By Peter Ball

"THE league is a job of work, the FA Cup is an enjoyable day out," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, said yesterday. "The Cup is like playing roulette with a lot of money — if you keep backing red, sooner or later it will come up."

Not always. Two of the game's greatest and most successful managers — Brian Clough and Bob Paisley — failed to win the game's most important knockout competition and, so far, the only red to come up for Wilkinson has been the red of Manchester United, who provide the opposition for Leeds tomorrow in the fifth round, the furthest they have progressed in the competition since Wilkinson became their manager in 1988.

United have proved a considerable obstacle for the Yorkshire team in recent years. Leeds claimed their first win over their most bitter rivals under Wilkinson only in September, when they won 2-1 at Elland Road in the FA Carling Premiership. That, at least, should remove an important psychological block.

"If omens mean anything, we are having a season of firsts, winning at Highbury and Selhurst Park for the first time, doing the double over Arsenal, beating United for the first time," Wilkinson said. "Going into the game knowing that we have beaten them once has to be better than knowing we had never beaten them.

"But United are favourites, and rightly so. They are at home. They won't have Cantona or Cole, but, over the past four years, they have proved their mettle at the sharp end in the Premiership and other competitions."

Leeds will miss Palmer and Deane, whose height has been an important part of their attacking plan in their unbeaten run this year. Deane's absence may mean a first start for Anthony Yeboah, possibly as the only forward in a 4-5-1 formation, but Wilkinson does not intend to reveal his hand until the last moment.

Ferguson is also considering his options, although the return to fitness of Hughes and the end of Keane's suspension leaves him with a strong hand, unless anyone else goes down with the virus that Ince brought back from his England duty in Dublin.

"It will be nice to get back to playing football again and to demonstrate the game is not in the negative slough that comments this week suggest," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "The fact that it's a cup-tie with a big Leeds following should mean there's a good atmosphere."

There should still be plenty of rivals to challenge last year's winners from Old Trafford, with Newcastle United, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur all enjoying home advantage this time.

Tottenham have a difficult tie with Southampton, who have drawn eight of their last ten games. Benali returns from suspension, but Southampton's hopes of an upset may rest more on what mood Le Tissier has returned from Dublin in.

Newcastle, who are the joint-favourites with Manchester United and Tottenham, meet Manchester City, who they have yet to beat this season. Brian Horton, the City manager, has said that St James' Park is his lucky ground, a point proved when City won there against the odds in the Coca-Cola Cup before Christmas — the only team to do so for 13 months — but, on form and logic, tomorrow should be the day when Horton's luck runs out, even though City are strengthened by the return of Tony Coton.

Liverpool have visitors from Selhurst Park for the second time in four days and will be even more pleased this time with a one-goal win against Wimbledon, who have proved not so much difficult opponents as downright cantankerous ones.

Wimbledon's landlords, Crystal Palace, have Dowie and Armstrong back for their game at Watford. If a team outside the top ten are to win the trophy, Everton may find a few backers at 14-1, but they are the sort of side everybody else will be happy to avoid if they account for Norwich City at Goodison Park this afternoon.

FA CUP

De Wolf's pride 44
Form guide 44

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Keep the children busy over half term

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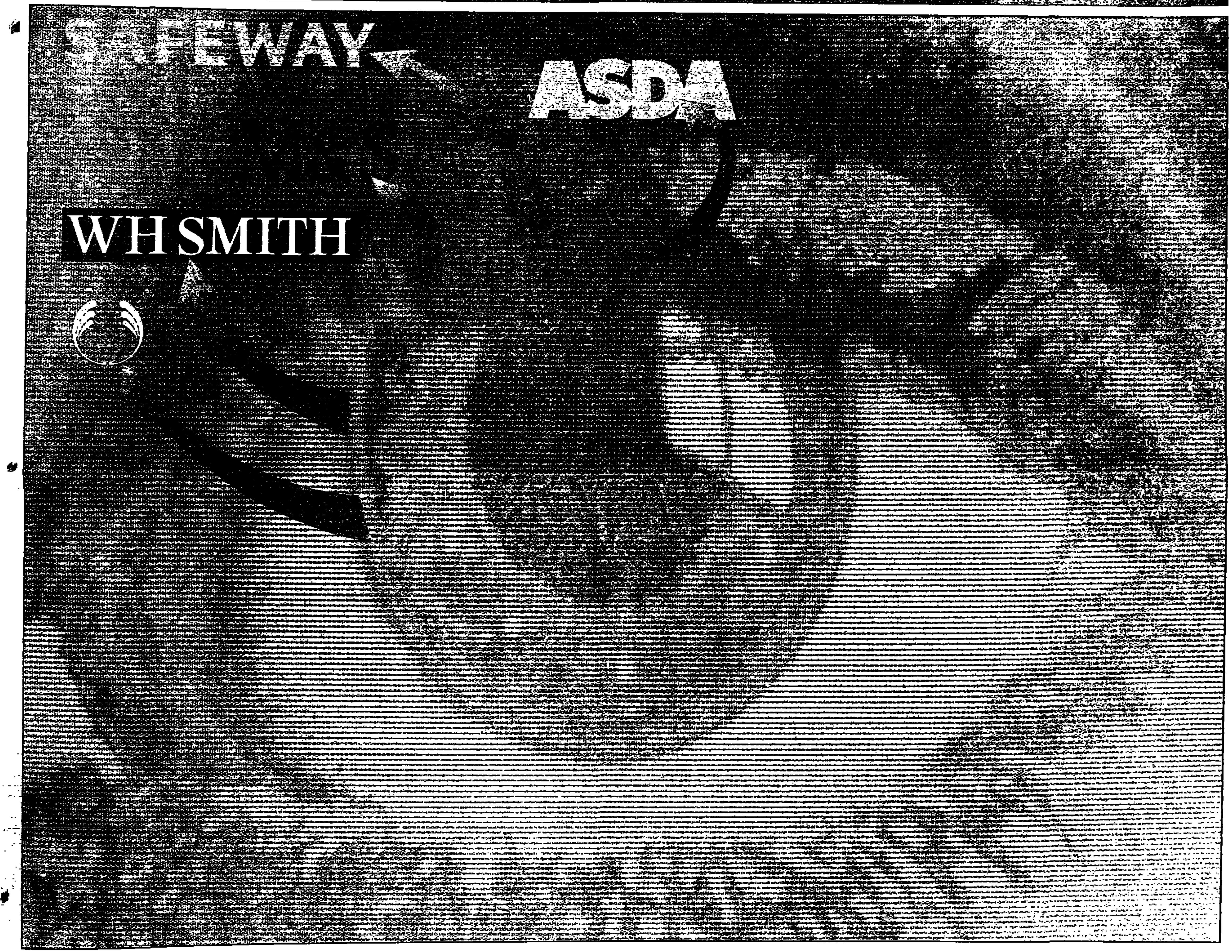
WEEKEND

THE SHOPPER ALWAYS TURNS RIGHT



By Nigel Hawkes

To those of us for whom shopping is a chore, it seems perverse actually to enjoy it. But shopping, the market researchers say, has become the number one leisure activity in Britain, and shopping centres are fast becoming the natural habitat of modern man. At Britain's biggest — the MetroCentre in Gateshead which is now up for sale at an estimated £300 million to £500 million — coaches roll up at the rate of 8,000 a year, some from hundreds of miles away. Last year the centre attracted 26.8 million shoppers. And a pursuit that has turned Gateshead, of all places, into a tourist attraction cannot be easily dismissed.

Three American social scientists who studied behaviour in American shopping malls identified four types of shopper. The *minimalists* dash in and out, neither eating, browsing, nor socialising — shoppers who try to get the whole business over as quickly and as inexpensively as possible (I can identify with this); traditionalists shop heavily but do little else. Grazers spend ages browsing, eating, and impulse purchasing, while enthusiasts, the most active of the mall denizens, do it all. The four groups are more or less equal in size.

What of those who are "just looking"? The psychologists have a name for this, as well: it's called "experiential consumption". More than 60 per cent of those they interviewed for a study reported in the *Journal of Retailing* last March engaged in a range of activities best described as browsing. "Mall inhabitants consume the mall as well as the objects offered within it," they concluded.

Supermarkets, too, seem to encourage particular behaviour patterns. Let's walk into a typical modern one and see how it works. The chances are that we'll turn right at the door — psychologists say that human beings have a predisposition to turn right on entering closed spaces, even if they are left-handed. That's why many purpose-built supermarkets have their doors on the left.

The first thing to strike the eye will be fresh fruit and vegetables, products that are oddly cheering, even to people who don't eat

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MATT ANKER

Belly, fronted by vocalist Tanya Donelly, left, hits the road for an extensive, nationwide concert tour beginning on February 23

ROCK

David Sinclair

BELLY: Their new album, *King*, is a winner, and, in concert, the combination of Tanya Donelly's stirring vocals, Thomas Gorman's jangly guitar parts, drummer Christopher Gorman's driving rhythms and bassist Gail Greenwood's energetic stage moves proves equally difficult to resist.
Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth ♿ (01705 826666), Feb 23; **Anson Rooms**, Bristol ♿ (0117 9299008), Feb 24; **Trent University**, Nottingham ♿ (0115 9528800), Feb 25; **Manchester Academy** ♿ (0161-275 2930), Feb 26; **Institute**, Birmingham (0121-643 6103), Feb 27; **UEA**, Norwich (01603 505401), Mar 1; **Metropolitan University**, Leeds (0113 2430171), Mar 2; **Sheffield University** (0114 2753300), Mar 3; **Newcastle University** ♿ (0191-232 8402), Mar 4; **The Plaza**, Glasgow (0141-423 3077), Mar 5; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Mar 18.

CHUCK BERRY: Despite his regrettable taste in shirts and a tendency to churn out the old hits as if punching the clock on a production line, Chuck Berry — now a nimble 68-year-old — remains the guardian of one of the central repertoires of rock 'n' roll.
Grand, London SW11 ♿ (0171-738 9000), Feb 24; **Forum**, London NW5 ♿ (0171-284 2200) Feb 25; **Cliffs Pavilion**, Southend-on-Sea (01702 351135), Feb 26; **Guildhall**, Portsmouth (01705 824355), Feb 27; **Colston Hall**, Bristol ♿ (0117 9262957), Feb 28; **De Montfort Hall**, Leicester ♿ (0116 2333111), Mar 1; **Barbican**, York (01904 656688), Mar 2; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-332 6633), Mar 3; **Lakeside Country Club**, Camberley (01252 836464), Mar 4; **Crawley Leisure Centre** ♿ (01293 553636), Mar 5; **St Georges Hall**, Bradford ♿ (01274 752000), Mar 6; **Southport Theatre** (01704 540404), Mar 7; **Usher Hall**, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-228 1164), Mar 8; **Capitol**, Aberdeen (01224 583141), Mar 9; **National Stadium**, *Dublin* ♿ *(010 3531 4533371)*, Mar 10, **Maysfield Leisure Centre**, Belfast ♿ (01232 241633), March 11.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

OFFICIUM: For years the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek trod his own path, far from the jazz mainstream, as he helped to create the distinctive windswept soundscapes of the ECM label. Was there a more unlikely success last year than his meeting with the classical vocal quartet, The Hilliard Ensemble? Transcending categories, their interpretation of works, including the *Officium defunctorum* by the 16th-century composer Cristóbal de Morales, was welcomed by critics and public alike. Back in harness, the artists now embark on their first joint British tour.
Salisbury Cathedral ♿ (01722 320333), Mon 20, 8pm; **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-928 8800), Tues 21, 8pm; **Southwell Minster**, Nottingham (0115 9419741/9482626), Wed 22, 8pm; **Metropolitan Cathedral**, Liverpool ♿ (0151-709 3789), Thur 23; **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-212 3333), Sat 25.

JESSICA WILLIAMS: Better late than never. Jessica Williams is being welcomed into the inner circle of American pianists. Dave Brubeck can be counted among her champions, and provided liner notes for last year's release on Hep, *In The Pocket*.
Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Rd, Manchester ♿ (0161-273 6283), tonight, 7.30pm; **Holywell Music Room**, Holywell St, Oxford (01993 702748), tomorrow, 8pm; **Town Hall**, Cheltenham ♿ (01242 523690), Tues 21, 8pm; **Blue Note**, Hoxton Square, London N1 (0171-729 8440), Wed 22, 8.30pm; **Pizza Express**, Maidstone, Kent ♿ (01622 753162), Fri 24, 7.30pm; **Piper Club**, Hull (01482 492868), Mar 1, 8pm; **Darlington Arts Centre**, Darlington ♿ (01325 483271), Mar 3; **Brodie Country Fair**, near Nairn, Scotland (016674 55262), Mar 4, 8.15pm; **Corner House Hotel**, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-265 9602), Mar 5, 8pm; **Lemon Tree Arts Centre**, Aberdeen ♿ (01224 642230), Mar 7, 7.30pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

LAST TIPPETT: When a great composer says "this will be my last ever orchestral work" there will inevitably be sadness. But in the case of Sir Michael Tippett, 90 last month, that sentiment is overwhelmed by the high hopes held out for *The Rose Lake*, which is premiered by the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis's direction, and will surely be the highlight of the Barbican's Tippett festival. The title is straightforwardly descriptive, referring to an African lake that turns the "colour of pink roses" at sunset. Also in this concert is some of Tippett's most accessible orchestral music: the Ritual Dances from *The Midsummer Marriage*.
Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm. ♿

YSAYE ON THE EAR: I am not sure why the Wigmore Hall is devoting innumerable concerts over the next week to music written or inspired by the great 19th-century violin virtuoso Eugène Ysaÿe. But the series, beginning today with a concert by the Chilingirian Quartet (7.30pm), should open a window on one of the most intense periods of creativity in musical history. Ysaÿe's circle included Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Messager and Debussy. A feast for lovers of French romantic music.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), daily to Sat 25. ♿

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

OBERTO: Verdi's first opera, with John Tomlinson celebrating his debut as a producer by directing himself in the title role, was launched by Opera North just before Christmas, and is now touring around the country. For all its occasional crudities it is a fascinating piece, with enough pointers to the mature Verdi both musically and in subject matter — fraught family relationships — to keep opera-lovers on the qui vive. Tomlinson is well cast as the stern paterfamilias, and there is vivid support from Rita Cullis, Linda Finnie and David Maxwell Anderson. David Porcelijn conducts with appropriate vigour.
Theatre Royal, Theatre Square, Nottingham ♿ (0115 948 2626), tonight, 7.15pm; **Hull New Theatre**, Kingston Square, Hull ♿ (01482 226655), Tues 21, 7.15pm.

DER ROSENKAVALIER: Two casts available at Covent Garden next week, or three or four given the rate at which colds have been felling the first one. But never mind, the ardent conductor Andrew Davis and the silver-voiced Barbara Bonney (Sophie) are constant factors. On Monday, Felicity Lott, Anne Sofie von Otter and Aage Haugland give their last performances, and on Friday, Anna Tomowa-Sintow (Karajan's Marschallin), Ann Murray (Octavian in Salzburg, Munich and Vienna) and Kurt Moll's classically genial Ochs take over. How happy would I be with either.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Mon 20, Fri 24, 6.30pm. ♿

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

UNLACED GRACE: The historic presence of the Spencers' corset factory in Banbury must have had something to do with the idea of this locally devised exhibition, which will be touring the south from May to November. There is an element of historic retrospect on the development of the corset, but essentially it consists of fantastic variations on the corset especially created by the ceramic sculptor Michael Brennand-Wood and the fashion designer Vivienne Westwood. The results look something like fun, sometimes like torture and always more like sculpture than clothing.
Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury (01295 259855), Tues-Sat, 10am-4.30pm, until April 30. ♿

THE ROAD FROM 1945: Now that the 50th anniversary of VE day is looming we no doubt have to prepare ourselves to celebrate the post-Second World War age of austerity, too. A visit to this show would be a useful form of initiation. All the leading figures of the first post-war Labour Government are there in portraits by artists ranging from James Gunn (Clement Attlee) to Henri Cartier-Bresson (Aneurin Bevan), while the opposition is portrayed by Graham Sutherland in an oil sketch for his long destroyed portrait of Sir Winston Churchill. The more cultural side appears in a group of people involved with the Festival of Britain, all photographed by Norman Parkinson, a group of young angries (Osborne, Behan, Lucian Freud) photographed by Daniel Farson, and even Elizabeth Taylor by Karsh of Ottawa.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-306 0055), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, until June 18.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

IN AWE OF THE PAWNBROKER: During the early 1980s, Bill Woodrow emerged as a leading British sculptor. He used battered washing machines or car doors, but also made surprising images of his own with metal stripped from these ready-made objects. His latest sculpture reveals an ambitious and dramatic change. Five outsize bronze rings resting on cushions, attached with chains to a central pillar, all contain references to pawnbroking. Throughout this sculpture, Woodrow's concern with the greed and privation in British society is powerfully conveyed.
Oriel, The Friary, Cardiff (01222 395548), until Sat 25.

MAKE BELIEVE: An apt title for a mixed, international show of contemporary artists exploring ideas about fiction and falsehood. The exhibition has been selected by 13 enterprising graduate students from the college's MA course in Visual Arts Administration. Whatever the problems may have been in agreeing on a list of artists, the outcome is coherent as well as varied. Gillian Wearing's video installation, in a darkened room, concentrates on people who play out fantasies about becoming rock guitarists. Jacqueline Donachie adopts a tantalising approach, with loudspeakers offering extracts from a festive dinner she held for the 13 curators. A lively, questioning and professionally staged show, which makes ingenious use of the galleries at their disposal.
Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-584 5020), until Sun 26. ♿

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

KILLER JOE: A deserved transfer for Tracy Letts's slice of shabby-gothic — a comedy about a family that hires a hitman to dispose of one of its members. Imagine a blend of Quentin Tarantino and Sam Shepard, and you have the darkly funny feel.
Vaudeville, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987). From Tue 21 at 8pm; no matinées.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: On opening night, Philip Franks's revival of Webster's grimmest, gaudiest play needed a few extra sparks; but with Juliet Stevenson as the lovelorn victim, and Simon Russell Beale as her vulpine brother, the basic voltage is well in place.
Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (0181-858 7755). Evenings at 7.45pm; matinées, Saturdays at 2.30pm. ♿

● *More theatre, page 6.*

FILMS

Geoff Brown

BANDIT QUEEN (18): Shekhar Kapur's ground-breaking Indian film about the legendary outlaw Phoolan Devi, who followed an abused childhood with a bandit career as champion of the oppressed. Nudity and violence have kept the film off Indian screens; while the lady herself claims intrusion of privacy and distortion of the truth. Nonetheless, Kapur's film, shot in an urgent, eye-grabbing style, treats its story responsibly.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520).

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (15): The writer-director Frank Darabont brings a few new kinks to the male prison movie genre with this absorbing drama based on a Stephen King story. Tim Robbins is the quietly spoken prisoner, a convicted murderer, who survives the decades at Shawshank prison by massaging the warden's crooked finances.
Odeon Leicester Square (01426 915683).

● *More films, page 6.*

DANCE

John Percival

ROMEO AND JULIET: Rudolf Nureyev's production, created for English National Ballet in 1977, is probably the most dramatic and the most faithful to Shakespeare of any ballet version. Set to Prokofiev's monumental score, it has decors of Renaissance Italy by Ezio Frigerio, and strong roles for all its soloists. This week's revival at Southampton, after eight years absence from the British stage, is the beginning of a short tour.
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton ♿ (01703 229771), Wed 22 to Sat 25 at 7.30pm; matinées: Thur 23 and Sat 25 at 2.30pm; **Bristol Hippodrome** ♿ (0117 9299444) Mon 27 to Mar 4 at 7.30pm; matinée: Wed, Mar 1 at 2.30pm; **Palace Theatre**, Manchester ♿ (0161-242 2503), Mar 6-11 at 7.30pm; matinées: Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

SPRING LOADED: Twenty-two small British dance companies will play from one to six nights each at The Place over the next 12 weeks, showing a wide range of choreography, mostly by young creators selected by the director John Ashford as being, in his view, fresh, vigorous and determined. The Gandini Juggling Project (Tue 21, Wed 22) and JazzeXchange (Thurs 23 to Sat 25) start the series: full details from the box office.
The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), until May 13 at 8pm.

CHILDREN

LONDON

The Adventures of Theseus: The Legend Theatre Company travels through ancient Greece with the hero and discovers how he comes to meet the Minotaur.
Lyric Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Today, 11am, 1pm. Tickets £3. Age 5-11 years. ♿

Batik Workshops: The art of colouring fabric using wax and dyes will be demonstrated and explained. Everybody will make a batik picture to take home.
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-603 4535). Tues 21 to Fri 24, 11am-12.30pm, 2.30pm-4pm. Admission £5. Age 8 and over. ♿

Tower Hill Pageant: Experience Europe's largest holograms. Sit in a time car and be transported from Roman times to the present day, seeing, hearing and smelling the past.
Tower Hill Pageant, opposite Tower of London, EC3 (0171-709 0081). Open daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Tickets: adults £5.95, children £3.95. ♿

Museum of London: See the museum's Private Eye detective in this conservation investigation drama or follow the fun trail and find out how objects are protected.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 0807). Museum open Tues 21 to Sat 25, 10am-5.50pm, Sun 26 12-5.50pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.75 (valid for three months). Performances free to museum visitors, tomorrow, Tues 21 to Fri 24, next Sun 26, 2pm and 3.15pm. ♿

DORSET

Wildlife Half-Term Special: Face-painting and mask-making with a wildlife theme.
RSPB Radipole Lake Nature Reserve, Weymouth (01305 778313). Wed 22, 10am. Admission £1.50. Booking essential. ♿

MANCHESTER

The Atomic Lab: Find out about atoms. Also visit The Atom Show.
Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield (0161-832 2244). Museum open 10am-5pm. Admission: adults £3.50, children £1.50: The Atomic Lab, Mon-Fri, noon-2pm. ♿

TYNE AND WEAR

Thomas the Tank Engine Day: Colouring and story-telling with Christopher Awdry.
Monkwearmouth Station Museum, North Bridge Street, Sunderland (0191-567 7075). Today, 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Free. ♿

London's Tower Hill Pageant

WALES

Squirrel Nutkins Treasure Hunt: Look for nuts around the centre. Tomorrow, 2-4pm. Free. Also try clay modelling, Tues, Fri, 2-4pm. Charge 50p.
Nant Mill Centre, Nant Rd, Coedpoeth, Near Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 752772). ♿

WEST SUSSEX

Country Crafts: See traditional country products created from woodland materials. Includes practical demonstrations by a beekeeper and a woodcarver.
RSPB Pulborough, Pulborough (01798 875851). Today, 10am-4pm. Free. ♿

YORKSHIRE

Railways in Literature: Discover the trains from the classics with examples from Dickens, *Toad of Toad Hall* and the *Adventures of Rupert*.
National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, York (01904 621261). Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Admission: adults £4.20, children £2.10. ♿

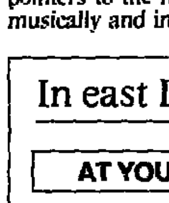
Prism: A fiery fiddler, a Celtic harpist and a bouzouki player perform folk music.
Under the Clock Tower, Town Hall, Wakefield (01924 295121). Tomorrow, 11am; Merlin Theatre, Meadow Bank Road, Sheffield (0114 2551638). Tomorrow, 3pm. Adults £3, children £1.50.

HEATHER ALSTON

More children's listings, page 19

In east London, **Ruth Gledhill** attends the 49th annual Grimaldi service for clowns

AT YOUR SERVICE



A clown wandered up and down the aisle, teasing the congregation. "Are you married? Do you want to be?" he demanded of a giggling, middle-aged churchgoer. I tried to sink into the unyielding wood of my pew when for his next trick he targeted the woman in front of me, who unwisely confessed she was no longer locked in wedded bliss. The clown handed her a long, yellow tubular object. "Brings back memories, don't it?" he said, scanning the congregation for his next victim. I prayed for deliverance. My prayers were answered and the service began.

This was the 49th annual Grimaldi service for clowns, taking place in a corner of Hackney, a sad-looking part of east London where the more hackneyed the joke, the better. As I arrived, white-faced clowns in full "slap", shiny shoes, baggy trousers of outrageous colours and red noses, were widening their melancholy smiles with make-up in the vestry. The traditional baggy clown's costume, with its tuft of black hair, is probably a relic of the devil in medieval miracle plays. Modern clowning developed out of the Italian *commedia dell'arte*, which produced the Arlecchino, or Harlequin, in the 16th century.

This is where clowns from all over the world, irrespective of religious conviction, give thanks for the life of Joseph Grimaldi, the first true circus clown specialising in tumbling and slapstick, who died in 1837. As we began, the Rev John Willard, clowns' chaplain, asked us to remember that this was a church service. "In past years some people have been very foolish. This does not make for a happy service," he said. "This is not an entertainment, it is an act of praise and worship to God, who gave us the gift of joy and love."

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Acting the clown to give thanks for the life of Joseph Grimaldi

Suitably admonished, we tried with moderate success to stop laughing when some of the clowns in the front seven rows succumbed to the temptation to wiggle an ear or a pair of baggy trousers at the entranced "audience" behind. At the back, too sad and broken-hearted even to don the greasepaint, was a clown I knew from "normal" life, the Rev Patrick Forbes, press officer with the Church of England and founder member of the Holy Fools, ordained clowns who fool around in church instead of the circus ring. He was mourning the decision of the church authorities not to renew his job contract.

Clowns processed in slowly, led by Smokey, one of Britain's oldest clowns who was almost bent double, while we sang "Lord of the Dance". They enacted the second reading, the wedding miracle where water was turned into wine, but to my disappointment did not fool around with slices of metaphorical wedding cake and custard.

We prayed for forgiveness "for the times when we've failed to see the joke, and lost our sense of humour and perspective." We begged God's mercy for when "we have laughed at others instead of with them, been cruel and arrogant instead of loving". While the clowns processed to lay a wreath at the Joseph Grimaldi memorial corner, we sang the unlikely hymn: "When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin, beneath our feet, O Lord, provide a ripe banana skin!" The clowns asked God to help them to remember "that your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom." On leaving, I was left wondering whether, instead of church being theatre dressed up as religion, the circus might not be religion disguised as theatre, with clergy dressed up as clowns.

Annual Clowns' Service at Holy Trinity, Beechwood Road, Dalston, London E8 (0171-254 5062).

CLOWNS' CHAPLAIN: The Rev John Willard.

ARCHITECTURE: Clownish-style. Ugly outside but elegant in, having survived bombs and arson attacks. Built in 1879. Shrine-like window in one corner commemorates Joseph Grimaldi. ★★

SERMON: Canon Roger Royle, former Conduct or senior chaplain at Eton, preached with style, energy and humour on how God is a God of the unexpected. "Those of you who are not clowns — sorry Mr Major — need to have the same flexibility, the same sense of humour, the same determination to be able to deal with whatever comes." ★★★★

MUSIC: The clowns' chaplain chose the same hymns as the previous year, in the vain hope that the practice might encourage us to sing them better. ★★

LITURGY: Threatened at times to go out of control, such as when the clowns' chaplain demanded the response "no" from the congregation and the clowns retaliated with: "Oh yes you will". ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: It was meat and drink to us to see the clowns who, after the service, entertained us free. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: So many fools for Christ's sake left me on the edge of, if not quite toppling into, a kind of jocose bedlam. ★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

COVER STORY

BILL ROBINSON

With fast food, cash dispensers and clean lavatories on offer, this petrol station on Wapping Highway has generated undreamt-of returns for Texaco

Continued from page 1

them. "We all get a high on fruit and veg," says John Hollis, a partner at the management consultants Arthur Andersen. "Conversely, products like detergent, or tinned goods, are a downer." (The greatest downer of all, he says, is the check-out.)

Roughly speaking, products that score as highs will be arranged around the perimeter of a supermarket, with the lows along the aisles. The back wall is an excellent place to sell high-profit items such as fresh meat, fish, dairy products and delicatessen foods. "People may miss individual aisles, but they can't miss the back wall," says Dr Robert East of Kingston University Business School. "All the aisles lead straight to it."

Shopping is more complex than it seems, according to geographer Dr Roy Bradshaw of Nottingham University. "When I shop I go into a store with 15,000 lines and come out with 30 products," he says. "How do I make those choices, and why?"

To find out, Dr Bradshaw's group has set up cameras in supermarkets, either tracking customers on video or taking still pictures every few minutes. "It's the first time anybody has seen how a whole store operates," he says. He finds that every store has "black holes" where little shopping is done, while other areas are veritable hot spots. The observations show that two distinct forms of visual perception are in use.

"What we're doing is pushing the trolley, talking to our partner, keeping the children quiet, steering, and scanning the shelves," Dr Bradshaw says. "Our heads are often tilted at about 20 degrees, because this is the best way to use saccadic vision, the type we need for scanning a scene. You know how it is when you're driving and suddenly you see a boy racer in a bright red car in the mirror? That's what we're doing, waiting for something to trigger the conscious part of the brain."

That something may be a product we know we need to buy. Then everything changes. "We stop. We don't move our heads, or our hands. We switch from saccadic to central, foveal, vision, and we focus on the packs, look at the price and for special offers. We forget everything else and concentrate. Then we decide, and put the purchase into the trolley."

Position on the shelf is important: a product at eye-level may sell twice as well as the same product knee-high. Supermarket managers often put own-brand baked beans to the left of the Heinz display because the eye reads left to right and will spot the own-brand goods first. Manufacturers who want prime positions have to offer "massive" discounts to the stores, Dr East says.

It is easy to assume that the width of the aisles is determined by the size of trolleys, but they are never too wide — that would encourage people to move too fast, and miss opportunities to buy. The ideal is to slow the customers down, by "bouncing" them to and fro across the aisle. To accomplish this, the best-selling digestive biscuit may be put on one side, with the most popular chocolate ones on the other.

NIGEL MARPLE

In a world of their own

Lighting and music can be used to create the right atmosphere. Music is supposed to relax shoppers and slow them down — once they're moving slowly, they begin to spot things on the shelves. Lighting is bright at the cosmetics counter to suggest cleanliness, but more subdued in the wine section, where the idea is to convey just a hint of the traditional wine cellar.

Dr Bradshaw's research has shown that it's not who you are, but who you're with, that determines a lot of shopping behaviour. "I can almost guarantee that a granny and two young children will go into a sweet shop," he says. "A man on his own is far less likely to go in to any shop than if he is with his wife."

But shops must beware of what Robert Lawson, of the National Opinion Poll Research Group, calls "the elastic band effect". NOP, too, has been using cameras to watch people shopping, and they show that couples appear to be linked by an invisible elastic band. If one partner is bored and moves away, the other is eventually drawn away, too.

The answer is to provide a diversion, so that both partners find something to interest them: comfortable seating near the changing rooms in women's wear shops, provided with newspapers to keep bored husbands happy, is an obvious example.

Shopping, says Richard Mott, managing director of 20/20, a retail consultancy, can be divided into needs and wants. Needs are the dutiful things that you have to buy — the weekly food shop, for example. Wants are leisure shopping, fancy togs for the children, luxury items, books, records, and foodstuffs that tickle the tastebuds. The retailer's ambition is to shift people like me from needs to wants, preferably without us noticing.

Bernard Dooling, creative director at 20/20, cites spectacles as a classic example of this ploy. For everybody until a few years ago — and for me to this day — glasses were a "needs" purchase, entered into only once about every three years. But designer glasses that say something about you, are a "wants" purchase. For the optician, they ring the tills much more thrillingly.

The supermarket can be seen as an arena in which people are drawn from needs to wants within a single store. You may go in to buy a loaf of bread, but you're liable to come out with a bottle of wine as well, plus a pack of Milan salami and a treat for the dog. "The dutiful products along the aisles draw you to the enjoyable ones at the periphery," Mr Dooling says. "When the customer gets to the bread counter, it's designed to look more like an old-fashioned bakery, and the same is true of the fish. The supermarkets play to historic memories."

Many shops, indeed, fit the same pattern. A retailer such as W. H. Smith has its needs-driven sections, such as stationery, and its want-driven bits, such as books and records. For BhS, 20/20 has designed a new look, enticing people round, bouncing them off displays at focal points. "Attract, inspire, capture" was the slogan 20/20 used to sell its plans to BhS.

Each department needs to play a slightly different tune. Children's clothes needs a clear-cut layout, with sizes, age-groups and sexes clearly marked, because mothers generally know what they're looking for. Men's shoes are heavily brand-dependent. "When a man goes to buy shoes, he wants to see brand names," Mr Dooling says. "Though he may not buy the most expensive brands, just to see them there is reassuring."

Bringing retailers together, in the cocooning safety of a mall inspires its own reactions from shoppers. For many users, malls seem to act almost like a drug, putting them into a dream-like state which has been called "flow". Some mall inhabitants, says Dr Peter Bloch, an American psychologist from the University of Missouri, are like people in the casinos of Las Vegas, out of touch with time and weather. "If the consumption activity is sufficiently pleasant, the hours may glide by," he says.

Minimalists appear immune to the appeal of flow, or maybe they are simply unable to attain this state of shopping heaven where nothing matters but the goods and the means of attaining them. Enthusiasts are the most likely to experience flow, which may be why they spend so much time in the mall. They are, in a subtle sense, addicted to it — I shop, therefore I am.

The shopping phenomenon appears to be engulfing this country. In every corner of every town, somebody is buying something every second of the day, or thinking about it. Ron Woodman, marketing manager of the MetroCentre, says: "People are quite happy to spend five hours getting here. When they arrive, the first thing they do is go straight into Marks and Spencer — they've probably passed about 25 of them on the way."

Even MetroCentre has some way to go before it can match West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada's top tourist attraction, with its 800 stores, 110 restaurants, and a theme park covering 400,000 sq ft. In America, shopping malls generate 13 per cent of the GNP — around $800 billion. Today, it seems, almost everything has been turned into a shopping opportunity. Museums, football grounds, stately homes, even national parks have their own shops. At Heathrow Airport recently I swear I saw a sign apologising for the disruption caused by building work designed to create "a richer retailing environment" — better shops, to you and I.

Where lies the future of shopping? 20/20 has achieved the apparently impossible, and turned a petrol station into an attractive shop. This Texaco-owned paragon is on Wapping Highway, east London, and offers fast food, cash dispensers and clean lavatories. "The returns from the site are amazing," Richard Mott says. "They've hit figures they didn't believe possible."

John Hollis, who is responsible for Smart Store Europe, a centre in Windsor where the latest technology of retailing can be explored, sees supermarkets losing some of their dominance to electronic home shopping. He expects dull, dutiful products such as detergents to be hived off and sold through screen or telephone-based systems, with direct delivery to the home.

He expects supermarkets to lose maybe a fifth of their merchandise in this way, but not much more. "Human beings have a deep-seated desire to go to market," he says. The 100,000 Norwegians who cross the North Sea every year to visit MetroCentre would say amen to that. Shop on.

The MetroCentre in Gateshead is a major tourist attraction

Cover photograph:
MEHAU KULYK/
SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Shopping rules

HABIT RULES the supermarket shopper in Britain, according to the surveys by Dr Robert East of Kingston University Business School.

More than 60 per cent say they usually go on a particular day — Friday and Saturday between them accounting for almost half of all spending — and two thirds say they usually go at the same time of day.

This is, near enough, 11am in the morning. "Most people say they could go at a different time and save on queueing time, but do nothing about it," Dr East says. From Wednesday onwards there is also an early-evening peak caused by people shopping after work.

The principal shopper in most households is a woman, but in about a fifth it is a man. Locality counts most in choosing a supermarket, followed by price, quality and range. But price has become more important in the 1990s, moving up from fourth to second position. "There's a definite sea-change in price consciousness," Dr East says. In America, price has long been shown in surveys to be the most important criterion.

Dr East has also looked at whether retailers' own brands can attract a loyal clientele, and finds they can't, except perhaps in the case of Sainsbury's.

Supermarket obstacle course trips up elderly

Jack Crossley grows old before his time, and finds a trip to the supermarket leaves him frightened and angry

I met that Pauline Athersmith in the supermarket the other day. She puts years on you, that woman.

What she put on me was a two-kilo lead weight on my left ankle, a one-kilo lead weight on my right wrist, a blurred pair of spectacles, a pair of ear plugs, two surgical rubber gloves on each hand and a blow-up swim-aid on my left arm.

She hung all this stuff on me to simulate what it's like if you have recently had a stroke, your sight is failing and you've got arthritis.

She then said, "Lets go shopping." Pauline Athersmith is an unusual lady who goes around the country teaching retail outlets and manufacturers what a hell they have created for the elderly and infirm.

She is project co-ordinator of Age Concern's "Through Other Eyes" programme, and on the day I met her she managed, within half an hour, to turn a group of tough cookies into insecure oldies.

Executives from supermarket packaging firms, food and petfood suppliers, and journalists from grocery and packaging magazines were subjected to Pauline's ageing treatment and all ended up the same: frightened, isolated, insecure — and angry.

We met at the Institute of Grocery Distribution in Hertfordshire where Pauline and her team had mocked up the kind of supermarket we all know and hate: badly signposted goods, shelves out of reach, trolleys abandoned on dangerous corners, unhelpful and uninterested check-out staff, products in packages that even people with 20-20 vision find difficult to read and more difficult to open.

Wearing our instant-wrinkly outfits we were given specific tasks: locate a jelly. How do you get it to set quickly?

Locate a packet of spaghetti. How long does it take to cook? I found the items, but couldn't read the small-print instructions.

At the check-out we felt guilty for not having the right money ready and for the time it took our arthritic fingers to pay, receive change and pack our purchases.

We were then asked to open our purchases. Almost impossible with some of them. Cheeses with impenetrable plastic coverings. Sauce bottles with unyielding screw tops. Milk cartons resisting all reasonable approaches before spuming their contents down your shirt.

"I always get a knife or a pair of scissors," I told Pauline. "Me too," said some of the others.

"Exactly," said Pauline. "That's one of the reasons why 46,000 people a year need hospital treatment for injuries suffered opening packages."

She gave us some annual figures for the causes of accidents: corned beef tins 402; other tins 965; glass bottles 550; aerosols 43; blister packs 12; tool and toy boxes 160; plastic pots and tubs 85. Four people went to hospital last year after trying to open paper bags.

Age Concern is attracting favourable attention from industry. Safeways executives are put through the programme. Tetrapak, formerly one of the great sinners, has taken it on board. This huge packaging firm pleads guilty to having made exploding milk cartons. It has now perfected user-friendly, non-exploding ones which will be on sale in the not too distant future.

"The core of 'Through Other Eyes' is a sensory simulation workshop designed to acquaint participants with the special needs of older people," Pauline says. "By wearing simple devices, they can temporarily experience some of the effects of ageing, including a decline in vision, hearing, mobility, agility and strength.

"The weights on the ankle and wrist simulate the effects of a stroke by reducing the strength of the muscle. The swim aid on the arm reduces elbow joint mobility. The blurred goggles simulate tunnel vision, cataracts and damaged retinas. Two surgical gloves on each hand desensitise the fingers and also simulate arthritic stiffening of the joints."

I can report that Age Concern's equipment does all of the above with devastating effect.

"It's a nightmare we have to wake up to," said Pauline. "We have an ageing society — half the population will be over 55 by 2026.

"They will become a dominant force, demanding improved services to match their specific needs. It is in the interest of any organisation aiming to provide a quality service to take more account of older people's needs." There is evidence that this message is getting through.

I talked to Rowntree about the jelly pack which I encountered. The information on the pack was difficult to read even without my fuzzy goggles. Too much space was given to non-vital information such as a recipe and a colour picture of what the recipe would look like when prepared. Not enough room was left for Directions for Use, Microwave Guidelines, and a tip saying "Avoid using fresh pineapple and kiwi fruit in jellies as they contain an enzyme which prevents setting".

I lost patience with the plastic wrap round the jelly and finally took the scissors to it.

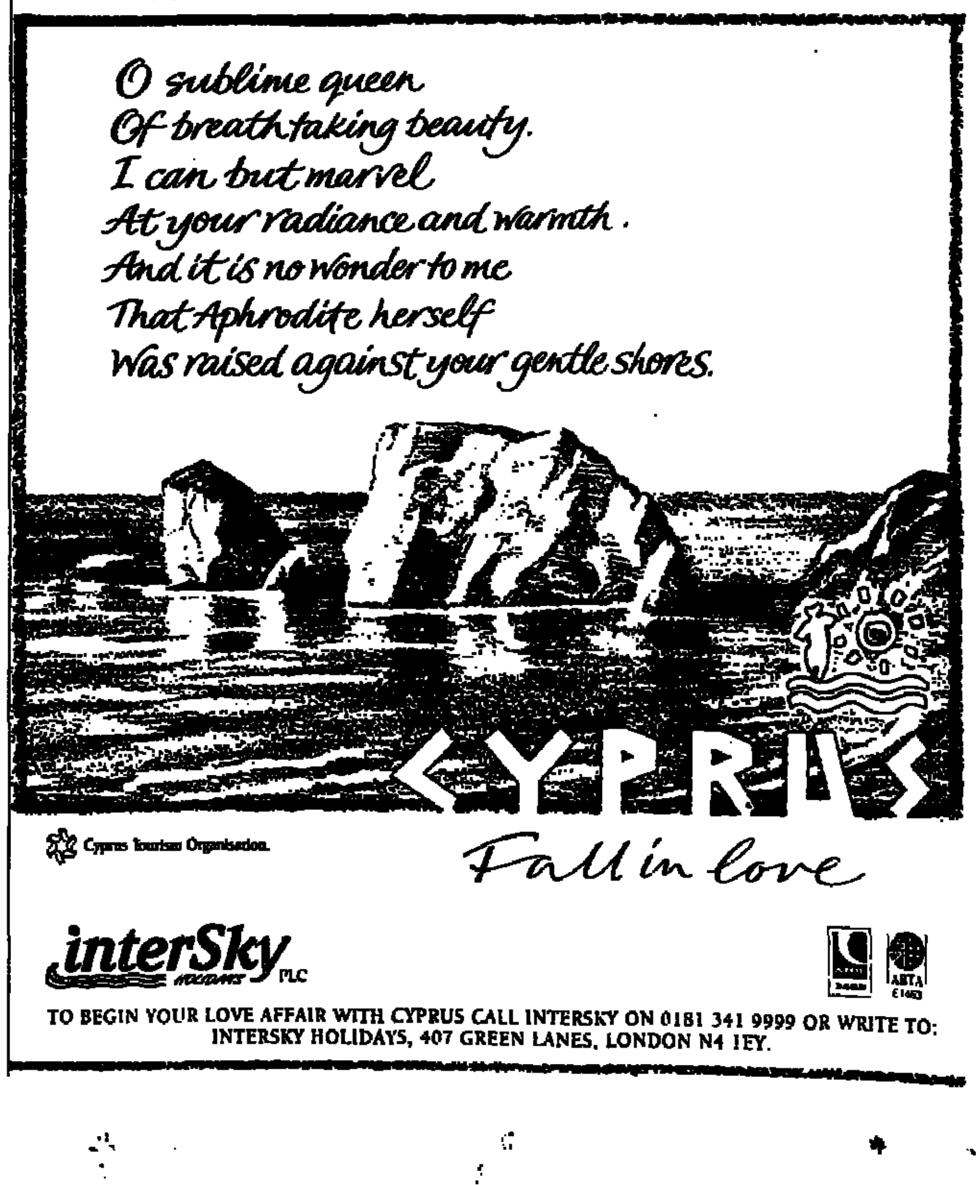
Rowntree's spokesperson Hilary Parsons, public affairs manager with Nestle (UK), says: "We make every effort to ensure that information on our packaging is legible and believe this carton is presented clearly. However, if it is felt that the typeface is too small we are happy to listen to what is regarded as acceptable and see if it can be incorporated."

I have arranged a treat for Hilary: Pauline will be in touch — with an offer to put years on her.

- *Age Concern: Pauline Athersmith, Project Co-ordinator, Age Concern, 77 High Green, Cannock, Staffordshire (01543 503660; fax 01543 504640).*

CHRIS PEARSALL

Jack Crossley (left) has trouble with the small print



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Sun 19 Feb 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Christoph von Dohnányi (cond) Brahms Symphony No 4, Symphony No 2 Sponsor AT&T £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 *Philharmonia Ltd
Mon 20 Feb 7.30	**NOVOSIBIRSK PHILHARMONIC** Arnold Katz (cond) Prokofiev Suite, Lieut Kije, Shostakovich Pno Conc No.2; Rachmaninov The Knight's Monologue; Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition. £25, £21, £16, £11, £6 Van Walsum Mgt*SBC
Tue 21 Feb 8.00	**JAN GARBAREK & THE HILLIARD ENSEMBLE** Officium: The live performance. A unique collaboration between the brilliant exponents of medieval vocal music & one of today's greatest saxophonists. £25, £20, £10 Serious Speakout
Wed 22 Feb 7.30	**THE CHINESE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS OF TAIPEI** Featuring dancers, tumblers & dazzling magicians. £19.50, £17.50, £15.50, £12.50, £9.50, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay/John Martin/Daily Telegraph
Thu 23 Feb 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH. Zubin Mehta (cond) Pinchas Zukerman (violin) Schubert Ov. Rosamunde; Berg Violin Conc; Elgar Sym No.1. Spons: Commercial Union. £21, £17, £13, £8, £5 (ONLY) *Lon Phil

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 18 Feb 7.45	**PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA** John Arthy (leader) Duncan Galloway (vocalist) A celebration of the popular songs and dance music of the 1920s and 1930s £12.50, £10.50, £7.50 PRO
Sun 19 Feb 3.00	**PETER KATIN** (piano) Schubert Moments Musicaux, D.780; Sonata in A minor, D 537; Chopin Nocturne in B, Op 62, No.1; Sonata in B minor, Op.58 £12, £10, £8, £6 Maureen Lunn Management
Wed 22 Feb 7.45	**ALBAN BERG QUARTET** Haydn String Quartet, Op.76 No.1; Schoenberg String Trio, Op 45; Beethoven String Quartet No 13, Op 130 (with Grosse Fuge) £15, £13, £9.50, £6 *SBC
Fri 24 Feb 7.45	**THE PICCADILLY DANCE ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT** Michael Law, Julia Shore, Danielle Carson, & dancers from the London Jitterbugs. Great tunes of the 20's, 30's & 40's spiced with jazz £12.50, £11, £9.50, £8, £6.50 A Bennett/PDO Ltd

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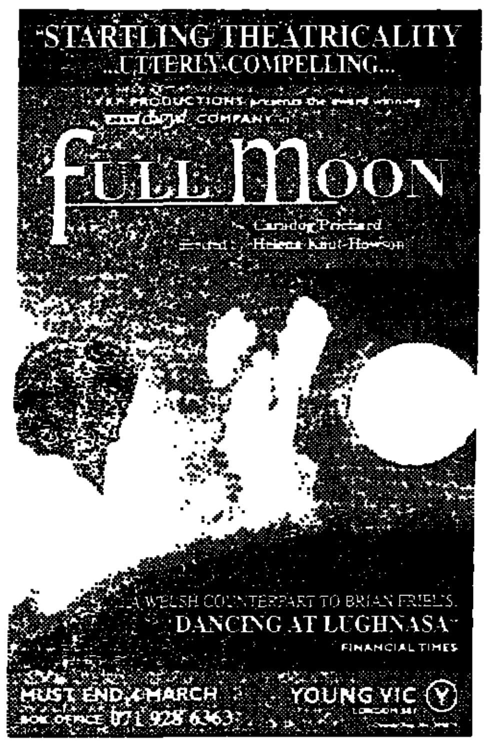
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Tomor 19 Feb 4.00pm	**MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET** Ernest Read Explorer Concert, Ernest Read Symphony Orch., Peter Ellis cond., principal dancers from London City Ballet, introduced by Noel Long. Excerpts from *Romeo & Juliet, Giselle* and *The Nutcracker* £13 £10 £6 U 16 ½ price *Ernest Read Mus Ass.*
Tomor 19 Feb 7.30pm	**TIPPETT: VISIONS OF PARADISE** London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis cond., Gerhard Oppitz piano Tippett Ritual Dances Ravel Piano Concerto in G Tippett The Rose Lake (World première) Debussy La Mer £6 £10 £14 £16.50 £22 £30 *LSO Ltd in assoc with the Royal Philharmonic Society*
Mon 20 Feb 7.30pm	**VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS*** City of London Sinfonia. Nicholas Kraemer dir Andrew Watkinson dir*/vln., Soloists from the CLS. Prog. also inc Vivaldi Concertos in C for 2 oboes and 2 clarinets, for violin from *La stravaganza*, in F for 2 horns; in B minor for 4 violins £15 £10 £5 *City of London Sinfonia* *SPONSORED BY JOHN LAING PLC*
Wed 22 Feb 8.00pm	**HAYDN IN LONDON** English Chamber Orchestra, Raymond Leppard cond., Yvonne Kenny sop., Stephanie Gonley vln. Mozart Ov *Der Schauspieldirektor*; Aria *Bella mia fiamma* Viotti Violin Concerto in A minor Haydn Scena di Berenice; Symphony No 103 in E flat *Drumroll* £19 £15 £10 £6 *ECOMS* *SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR SPORT AND THE ARTS*
Thur 23 Feb 7.30pm	**TIPPETT: VISIONS OF PARADISE** London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis cond., Midori violin Stravinsky Violin Concerto Sibelius Symphony No.7 Tippett Symphony No 4 £6 £10 £14 £16.50 £22 £30 *LSO Ltd.*

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23 Feb	Adrian Thompson tenor Iain Burnside piano, Steve Smith guitar. Horn Players of the LSO. Tippett Sonata for four horns; the Blue Guitar for solo guitar; The Heart's Assurance for tenor and piano

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ALBERY WC2 BO 0171 369 1730 CC 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) RIK MAYALL STEPHEN FRY CELL MATES A new play written & directed by SIMON GRAY Eves 8pm Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm

ALDWYCH cc 071 416 6003 071 497 9977 (inc fee) **Reduced Previews Now!** 7.30 Sat Mat 3.0 Opens Feb 27 at 7.00 **FELICITY KENDAL MARGARET TYZACK & ART MALIK** in **TOM STOPPARDS** New Play INDIAN INK Directed by **PETER WOOD**

APOLLO BO/CC 24hrs 0171 494 5049/344 4444 (no bkg fee) cc 497 9977 (bkg fee) **TONY SLATTERY** in NEVILLE'S ISLAND by **TIM FIRTH** **"THE MOST DAZZLING PLAY OF OUR TIMES"** Jack Tinker Mon-Fri 8.0 Sat 8.30 Mats Fri 4.30 & Sat 5.0 **MUST END TON'T**

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6043 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 497 9977 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of** STARLIGHT EXPRESS **"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT"** Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

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Sunday 19 Feb 11.30 am NB: starting time	**PHILIPPE GRAFFIN** violin Coffee Concert **PASCAL DEVOYON, CHRISTIAN IVALDI** piano Lekeu: Violin Sonata; Ysaÿe: Rêve d'enfant Saint-Saëns: Caprice, Rondo Capriccioso, Caprice Héroïque £7 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice Wigmore Hall
Sunday 19 Feb 4.00 pm NB: starting time	**CHILINGIRIAN QUARTET** Ysaÿe Festival Philippe Graffin violin; Ruth Peel mezzo, Pascal Devoyon, Christian Ivaldi piano Debussy: Epigraphes antiques, Fêtes Galantes II, Théo Ysaÿe: Les Blés de Flandres; songs by Chausson, Saint-Saëns, Chabrier & Duparc £12, £10, £8, £6
Monday 20 Feb 7.30 pm	**ST LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET** Ysaÿe Festival **TRIO BWV.** Christian Ivaldi, Frédéric Chiu piano Lekeu: Piano Quartet; Saint-Saëns: String Quartet No.1 Wagner/Liszt: Isolde's Liebestod; De Castillon: Piano Quartet Op 7 £12, £10, £8, £6
Tuesday 21 Feb 7.30 pm	**ST LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET** Ysaÿe Festival Michel Lethiec clarinet, Martti Rousi cello, Christian Ivaldi piano Chausson: Pièce Op 39, d'Indy: Clarinet Trio Op.29 César Franck: Piano Quintet in F minor (1878-79) £12, £10, £8, £6
Wednesday 22 Feb 7.30 pm	**Kathryn Stott, Jeremy Menuhin** piano Ysaÿe Festival Pascal Devoyon piano; Michel Lethiec clarinet; Miriam Fried, Paul Biss viola, Martti Rousi cello. Chabrier: Valses Romantiques Debussy: Rhapsodie; Busoni: Violin Sonata No.2 Op.36a Chausson: Piano Quartet Op.30 £12 £10 £8 £6
Thursday 23 Feb 7.30 pm	**Joshua Bell, Philippe Graffin** violins Ysaÿe Festival Diemut Poppen viola, Truls Mørk cello; Christian Ivaldi, Frédéric Chiu, Kathryn Stott piano Grieg: Piano Trio; Violin Sonata No.3 Op 45, Ysaÿe: Sérénade Op.22; Méditation Op 16, Fauré: Piano Quartet No.2 in G minor Op.45 £12, £10, £8, £6
Friday 24 Feb 7.30 pm	**Joshua Bell, Philippe Graffin** violins Ysaÿe Festival Steven Isserlis cello; Diemut Poppen viola; Pascal Devoyon, Frédéric Chiu piano Duparc: Cello Sonata; Chausson: Poème Op.25; Ysaÿe: Sonata No.3 *Ballade*; Bloch: Cello Sonata (world première), Debussy: String Quartet Op 10 £12, £10, £8, £6
Saturday 25 Feb 7.30 pm	**P Graffin** violin; **F Presle** trumpet; **P Biss** viola Ysaÿe Festival **T Mørk** cello, **D Meu** double bass; **C Ivaldi, K Stott, F Chiu, J Menuhin** pianos **Magnard**: Violin Sonata; **Lavignac**: Grand Galop for 8 hands **Franck**: Cello Sonata; **Saint-Saëns**: Septet for piano, trumpet, string quartet & double bass Op 65 £12, £10, £8, £6

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FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (24hrs No fee) 344 4444 (No fee)/ Grps 413 3321 **"A REAL THRILL OF HORROR"** The Sunday Times **JOHN NORMINGTON MICHAEL GRANDAGE** Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Tues 3pm & Sat 4pm

GARRICK 071 494 5093 CC 497 9977 **PAUL MERTON CAROLINE QUENTIN** Arthur Smith's new comedy LIVE BED SHOW **"This play has jokes in it"** Ind on Sun Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.30 & 8.45pm STUDENT STANDBY £9.50

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HAYMARKET BO/CC 071 930 8800 24 hr cc with fee 344 4444/ 497 9977 Evenings 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **Dearbhla Molloy Paul Shelley** The National Theatre production of **Tom Stoppard's "MASTERPIECE"** D Telegraph ARCADIA Directed by **Trevor Nunn** **BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR** Eve Standard Drama Award 1993 Laurence Olivier Award **OVER 350 PERFORMANCES**

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New rights for all the wrong reasons

Whisper the word "culture" in Brussels, and the bureaucrats who run the New Model Europe go bonkers. (Or, as half the Tory party would maintain, even more bonkers.) Two years ago, for instance, they were debating a daft report from a French Green MEP that would have outlawed virtually all business sponsorship of the arts and sport, apparently on the grounds that Big Business is Bad for You.

"Too often," this hilarious report squealed, "sponsorship is designed to direct attention away from poor quality or polluting production, or even harmful products (chemicals, weapons)." Only a campaign of ridicule in the British press (yes, we are good for something) stopped this catastrophe from becoming law.

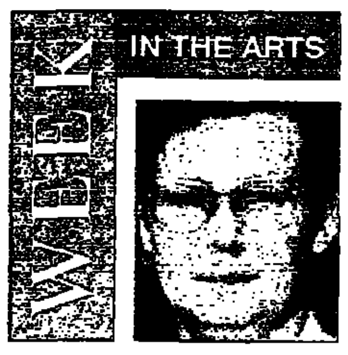
Undaunted, the ever-inventive Euro-meddlers decided that another area of our cultural life needed "improving". Britain, in common with most other parts of the world, has a copyright law that extends the rights of authors and their heirs for 50 years after the author's death. Germany, however, has always argued that many of its artists lost royalties during the war, so it prefers a copyright period of 70 years after death.

The European Commission decided that copyright needed to be "harmonised". I love that word; it suggests that Schubert himself is working personally on the problem. But what does harmonisation mean in this context? You have probably guessed. The EC thinks that the Germans have got it right, and that Britain, America, Australia and Canada are wrong.

Fifty years is too short, the EC declared, because "the average lifespan in the Community has grown longer, to the point where this term is no longer sufficient to cover two generations". So now it's official: there *is* a connection between a healthy diet and the law on copyright. Anyway, in October 1993 an EC directive standardised copyright at 70 years.

Fortunately, this was done on a "long-term basis". Unfortunately, the long-term has arrived. On July 1 this year we will find ourselves in a 70-year-copyright Europe. The fact that Britain will thus be out of step with the rest of the English-speaking world — in the very area where language matters more than anything else — is apparently not considered to be important.

So what does it all mean? Well, you thought you could sing *Land of Hope and Glory* for nothing? Not any more; Elgar is back in copyright. So are Monet, Kipling, Holst, Hardy, J.M. Barrie, Lorca, Delius, D.H. Lawrence, Kenneth Grahame... I could go on, but I would soon spell someone's name wrong.



IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

All this is good news for publishers, heirs, estates, royalty-collecting agencies — and, of course, m'learned friends in the legal profession. In fact, the latter are rubbing their hands with glee, anticipating all sorts of tricky grey areas that will now need to be tested (very expensively) by people in silly wigs.

For instance, what happens to a musical arrangement or stage adaptation of a work that was out of copyright, but is now back in? The EC directive is a triumph of waffle on this. People "who undertook in good faith the exploitation of works" when those works were out of copyright may "in certain circumstances" be exempted by member countries from making copyright payments now. But what constitutes good faith? And in what circumstances?

The only question that matters to me, however, is "will the new 70-year rule be good for the public?" And the answer is no. When copyright lapses on a work of art, the public's access is almost always improved. New and better editions of great novels can be made. Orchestras can start playing music that requires a lot of rehearsal, because they no longer have to fork out large royalties. And the authoritarian estates of certain authors (no names, no writs) cannot continue to censor interpretations of an author's work with which they disagree, or prevent critical biographers from quoting works freely.

And this brings us to the vexed question of "fair dealing" — the convention whereby critics and scholars are (or were) allowed to quote without infringing copyright. This has now been eroded to the extent that some powerful copyright-holders barely acknowledge the concept, and treat scholars as if they were pirates. In the case of paintings, it is simply not recognised at all, and art-book publishers, already existing on small profit margins, are not in a position to test "fair dealing" in the courts.

There would be more sympathy for the EC's 70-year ruling if more heirs, publishers and copyright agencies gave the impression that they actually cared about the art or literature assigned to them, rather than regarding it simply as an asset on which income must be maximised. The EC talks grandly about copyright being "fundamental to intellectual creation" — and so it is. Nobody wants to strip authors of their rights; most have difficult enough lives as it is.

But taking the works of long-dead authors out of the public domain has nothing to do with "intellectual creation". It simply hands a large windfall to organisations that are mostly doing very nicely already. And as more of the public's money is channelled into royalties for the heirs of dead authors, so less of it is available to support the living artist. The EC is *stifling, not supporting*, intellectual creation.

THEATRE: Stephen Fry is George Blake in Simon Gray's new play; French law meets its Dunkirk

Coldest heart in Cold War

DONALD COOPER

This way out: Rik Mayall (left) as Sean Bourke and Stephen Fry as George Blake in Simon Gray's *Cell Mates*

Cell Mates
Albery

Many of Simon Gray's characters have their dark, devious sides. They lie, cheat, manipulate each other, and betray spouses and friends with a frequency surely above the national average. Myself, I wouldn't go into the jungle with one of them, because he would probably end up implicating me in cannibalism and worse. Come to think of it, one of them did just that in *The Rear Column*, Gray's foray into the 19th-century Congo.

But *Cell Mates* is the first of his plays to involve someone professionally treacherous. Its subject is George Blake, the Soviet spy sprung from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966 with the help of a saw, a rope-ladder, a few wet English liberals, and the sentimental but resourceful petty crook he had befriended behind bars. Sean Bourke freed Blake from an English trap and, Gray suggests in this absorbing if slightly underpowered play, Blake's thank-you was to lure Bourke into a Russian one.

The play has its implausibilities, among them that an Irishman could survive alone for six weeks in a freezing Moscow without shelter or a word of Russian. But the preposterously amateurish escape — which leaves Rik Mayall's Bourke tending Stephen Fry's quaking Blake in a London bedsit while a representive of the rent-collecting classes and other odd bods blunder in — strikes me as comically credible. The problem is that a switch of action to Blake's flat in Moscow does not generate quite the tension and grim humour we had been led to hope, though it is hard to tell who is at fault, Gray the dramatist or Gray the director of his own play.

Mayall's cheery Bourke has gone there out of friendship and plans to stay a week before returning to Behan-like celebrity in the Dublin pubs. Instead, two dourly welcoming members of the KGB take his passport, hand him another in a Ukrainian name, and then take that away. They ask him to stay first three months, next five years, on the grounds that going home might compromise Blake's other helpers. But Blake himself goes further, manipulating poor, bewildered Bourke into believing that these glum funcionaries are James Bond villains who will murder him if he resists their will.

Mayall has a goodish scene in which he transforms himself into a parody bum, but otherwise he is not greatly challenged. Gray's main interest is Blake, a spy, as he doubtless knows, whose 42-year sentence reflected his 42 victims. Fry sits over a tape-recorder, admitting that Stalin's mass murders are "a sensitive issue", proclaiming his moral duty to the future, and mildly regretting the number of broken eggs utopian omelettes need. And gradually it becomes clear that this passionate dispassion extends to his wife, his children, and the improbable friend who risked prison to save him.

Gray's Blake is a frighteningly familiar brand of fanatic, and Fry catches his aloofness, coolness and fastidious obsequiousness. Few tall actors can loom as deferentially as he. But does he miss the chance to deepen the character, with a hint of self-doubt or self-dislike here, anger or bitterness there? Or does the text deny him the opportunities he needs? The answer is probably a bit of each, but the result is a simpler, slicker monster than Marx and nature surely produced.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

What justice cannot see

Portrait of a Woman
Orange Tree, Richmond

THIS play begins with a murder and ends with a verdict, and much of the 90 minutes between takes place in a Paris courtroom. But there the familiar formula of courtroom drama ends.

French legal procedure is the least of the differences. Counsel are more directly rude to one another than barristers in the British theatre. Ruder also to the prisoner, Sophie Auzanneau, whom the prosecutors treat with undisguised contempt, but then this is 1953 and, as a schoolgirl in Dunkirk during the war, she became the lover of a German medical officer.

Now she has killed her former boyfriend and fellow medical student. We see her do so, and she admits it to the court. The only question is why, and Michel Vinaver's play shows us a legal system unable to extract the answer.

The courtroom speeches are taken from the original trial, where the accused apparently remained as expressionless as Lucy Tregear's Sophie is in the equivalent scenes of Sam Walter's production. Vinaver's perception seems to be that the lawyers keep trying to fit her crime into some preconceived structure of motive which she cannot affirm because she is as baffled as they.

It is possible to discern a motive from the other scenes Vinaver introduces: brief conversations with Xavier, her eventual victim (attractive portrait by Simon Day), her parents, fellow students, landlady and lovers. But their purpose is to present her essential unknowability.

The key to her character and motive lies in a reference to her childhood retreat, a pear tree where she was invincible. Told that she means invisible, Tregear is quietly insistent: "No, I was invincible because unseen." This is more than wordplay: love equals exposure, and for Sophie exposure equals threat. But the lawyers never notice.

JEREMY KINGSTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SARAH WILDOR

Profession: Ballet dancer

Age: 23

How it all started: Born in Eastwood, Essex. Attended the Royal Ballet School after training locally, "initially just to get me out of the house". Joined the Royal Ballet in 1991. Promoted to soloist last year.

How it almost ended: At 16, spent four months with her entire torso in plaster, thanks to two stress fractures in her back.

Biggest moments so far: Debuts last season in two principal roles: Juliet and Titania (in Ashton's *The Dream*), both of which earned praise for her lovely style, musical awareness and dramatic credibility. "It was a real shock when they told me I was to have a go at Juliet. It was lovely to do. And I probably looked her age too — everyone thinks I look about 14 now. I'll probably be grateful when I'm 40."

Worst moment: In December, when injury forced her to miss her debut in Ashton's *Daphnis and Chloe*. "I went over my ankle and tore a ligament in my foot. The timing was awful — two days before the first show."

And now another debut: Wildor makes her debut as Giselle this afternoon at Covent Garden (with a repeat performance on March 8). "I've been thinking about this character for ages and have decided how I want to portray her. I think she's a little bit mad right from the beginning."

Defining characteristics? Tiny, blonde and unusually delicate. The exact antithesis of Sylvie Guillem and her brand of in-your-face pyrotechnics.

Is she as musical as everyone says: "I just like music a lot. Because I'm not incredibly technical and can't do steps very easily, the music helps me. If I really listen then, it just happens, rather than thinking about the steps. I used to play the piano, and I'm thinking of taking it up again. I was never really that great, but I used to make things up because I wasn't very good at sight reading."

Fun in her spare time: "I like to look after my three cats. I think I'm obsessed by them; I find them really therapeutic."

Ideal day: "Not in the ballet studio, anyway. Except that, when I was injured, I never missed anything so much in my life. Now I appreciate what I've got."

DEBRA CRAINE

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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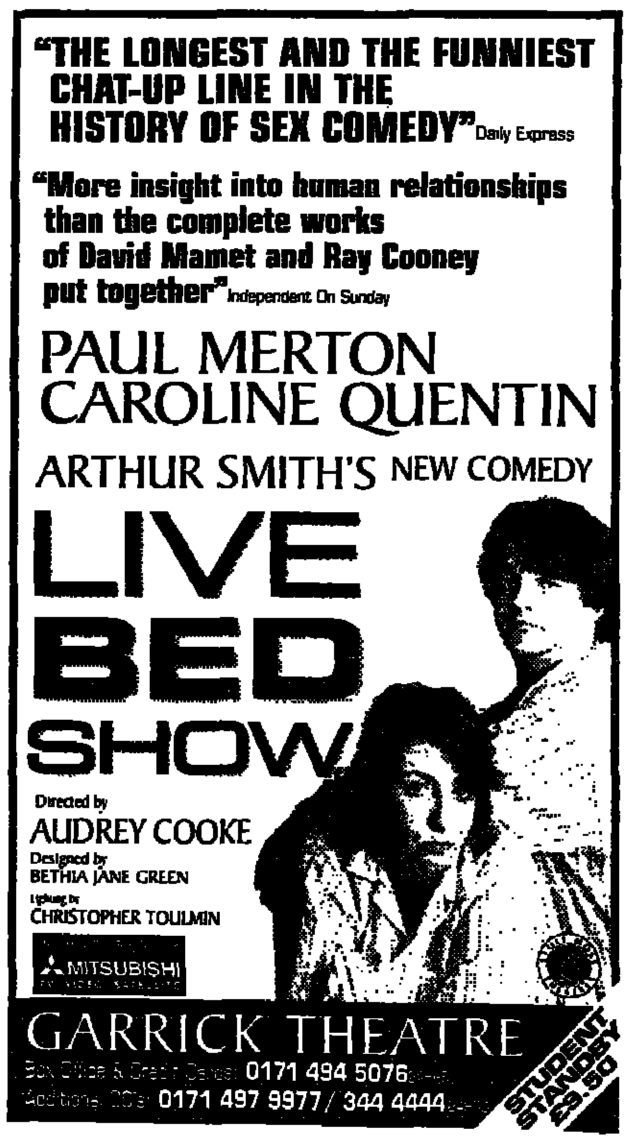

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Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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◪ **BEARING FRUIT** Deborah Paige directs five short plays by women. The authors are Hanan Al-Shaykh, Helen Edmundson, Lavinia Murray, Meredith Oakes and Sera Sugarman
Hampstead Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

◪ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** John Mortimer's adaptation, Ian Judge's direction and Clive Francis's Scrooge *make this a cosy evening, well removed* from the moral fervour of Dickens
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Feb 25, 7.15pm, mats today, Thurs and next Sat, 2pm ♿

☐ ***THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE*** Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE DANCE OF DEATH** Strindberg's impassioned, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Subtle characterisation by Gemma Jones and John Neville.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER** Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about *the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser* not to probe into
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm Until Mar 11

■ **DEALER'S CHOICE** Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama Funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mats today and Wed, 2.30pm ♿

☐ **DESIGN FOR LIVING** Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico join Rachel Weisz for the transfer of Sean Mathias's awardwinning Donmar production of Coward's *menage a trois* comedy
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Now previewing, 8pm Opens Feb 20, 7pm. ♿

■ ***THE DUCHESS OF MALFI*** See Critics' Choice, page 2.

■ ***FEVER PITCH*** *The one-man show* adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession — *some would say inexplicable* — with Arsenal FC. Stephen North takes us through 45 minutes each way

Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6.15 and 8.30pm

◪ ***HAMLET:*** Ralph Fiennes in Jonathan Kent's eagerly awaited Almeida production brings Shakespeare back to a marvellous Frank Matcham theatre. Cast includes Francesca Annis, James Laurenson, Peter Eyre, Paterson Joseph and Terence Rigby
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 (0171-312 1995). Today's previews, 2.30 (seats), 7.30pm (no seats)

◪ ***INDIAN INK*** Felicity Kendal, Margaret Tyzack and Art Malik in Tom Stoppard's new play, set in unknowable India in 1930 and a Shepperton bungalow today. Peter Wood directs
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Now previewing, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 27

☐ ***THE LIVE BED SHOW*** Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed *in Arthur Smith's comedy*
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Thurs, 8pm. Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm

◪ **MAMA I WANT TO SING** The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). With Chaka Khan
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8

☐ **MYSTERY BRUISES** The fifth of Ken Campbell's marvellous solo talkshows: parallel universes, the Holy Grail and the Grand Theory of Everything
King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm. Until Mar 5

☐ ***THE PRESENT*** *Nick Ward returns* to the theatre with a play set in Australia at the time of John Lennon's murder, *where* Ewen Bremner's Danny falls foul of a con man, a beautiful sculptress and her predatory minder
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until at least Mar 18

◪ **STRICTLY ENTRE NOUS**: Dudley Sutton plays W H Auden when old and Rupert Holliday-Evans his reproachful younger self in Vince Foxall's play, set in a shabby Viennese hotel.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223) Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun 6pm. Until Mar 11. ♿

☐ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL**: Award-winning performance from Lilo Baur in Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the loves and anguish of peasant life. A Theatre de Complicite production.
Shaftesbury, *Shaftesbury Avenue*, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm ♿

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA** Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive *revival* of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath and words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht"
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

■ **ZORRO — THE MUSICAL**. The masked swashbuckler rights wrongs, defies gravity and gives the audience a great time in a typically rumbustious Ken Hill show
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Mar 2, 2pm and Mar 11 and 18, 3pm. Until Mar 18 ♿

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Arcadia** Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . ◪ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ■ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072)
■ **Copacabana** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . ■ **Crazy for You** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) .
◪ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (0171-494 5045) . ■ **Grease** Dominion (0171-416 6060) . ■ **Les Misérables**. Palace (0171-434 0909)
■ **Miss Saigon** Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) . ☐ **Neville's Island**. Apollo (0171-494 5070) . ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ☐ **On Approval** Playhouse (0171-839 4401)
☐ **A Passionate Woman** Comedy (0171-369 1731) . ☐ **She Loves Me** Savoy (0171-836 8888) . ◪ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (0171-928 7616) . ■ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665)
■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . ■ **Three Tall Women**. Wyndhams (0171-369 1736)
◪ **The Woman In Black**. Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ANDRE** Adventures of an orphaned *seal. Well-packaged family film with* Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion. Director, George *Miller*
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) ***Mezzanine*** ♿ *(01426 915683)* **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) ***Warner*** ♿ *(0171-437 4343)*

BANDIT QUEEN See Critics' Choice, page 2

◆ **BLACK BEAUTY** Unsatisfying, gloomy version of the children's classic, *featuring Sean Bean and David Thewlis* Director, Caroline Thompson
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CAMILLA *Whimsical swansong for* Jessica Tandy, an aged concert violinist who rejuvenates a younger woman *(Bridget Fonda). Director Deepa Mehta*
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

HOLY MATRIMONY. Sexpot joins an Anabaptist community. Queasy, unfunny comedy with Patricia Arquette. Director, Leonard Nimoy
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **RUDYARD KIPLING'S THE JUNGLE BOOK** Muddled live-action adventures of jungle boy Mowgli. With Jason Scott Lee, Lena Headley, Cary Elwes. Director, Stephen Sommers
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION *See Critics' Choice, page 2*

CURRENT

AMATEUR (15) Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

BARCELONA (12) Whit Stillman's successor to *Metropolitan*, an agreeable blend of romance, politics and disco dancing, set during the early 1980s
Notting Hill Coronet ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426-915353) ***Kensington*** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG) Delectable mosaic of Taipei family life from the director of *The Wedding Banquet*, Ang Lee
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18) Strange, fatal friendship of two New Zealand teenagers. Compelling, imaginative, true-life drama from director Peter Jackson
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

◆ ***INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE*** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) ***MGMs: Baker Street*** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18) Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and *$700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the* femme fatale to end them all. Director, John Dahl.
Metro *(0171-437 0757)* **MGM Piccadilly**, today only (0171-437 3561) **Prince Charles**, today and Mon (0171-437 8181)

◆ **LEON** (18). Precious child shelters *under a hitman's wing.* Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York by French director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno, Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) ***Tottenham Court Road*** *(0171-636 6148)* **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 *914098)* ***West End*** *(01426 915574)* **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE MASK (PG) Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wisecracking demon. Inventive vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, filled with the antic spirit of 1940s cartoons. Director, Charles Russell.
Odeon Marble Arch (01426 914501) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

NOSTRADAMUS (15) Life and *prophecies of the 16th-century legend.* Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG) Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr. Director, Norman Jewison
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LA REINE MARGOT (18) Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau
Curzon Mayfair *(0171-369 1720)* **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914666)

◆ ***THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE (18)*** Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanitarium. Overdone health *food satire, with Anthony Hopkins,* Bridget Fonda, Matthew Broderick. Director, Alan Parker
Barbican ♿ *(0171-638 8891)* **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Mezzanine** ♿ *(01426 915683)* ***Swiss Cottage*** *(01426 914098)* **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SHALLOW GRAVE** (18) Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Screen/ Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SOLITAIRE FOR 2** (15) Body-language lecturer pursues archaeologist with ESP. Awkward comedy from *Pig Farmer* co-director Gary Sinyor. With Mark Frankel and Amanda Pays
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** ♿ (0800 888997) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG). Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun, with Jaye Davidson. Director, Roland Emmerich.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS** (PG) *Talky but acceptable film debut for the* stars of television's *Star Trek: The Next* Generation. Patrick Stewart's Captain *Picard meets William Shatner's Kirk.* Director, David Carson
Empire ♿ (0800 888911) **MGM Baker St** *(0171-935 9772)* ***Fulham Rd*** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

SUTURE. Hypnotic melodrama with avant-garde trimmings from new American film-makers Scott McGehee and David Siegel
Everyman ♿ (0171-435 1525) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647)

NEW ON VIDEO: Opera in the jungle; Wagner at length; Nicholson with bite

Klaus Kinski as Fitzcarraldo: cast and crew went to hell and back to make Werner Herzog's grandiose masterpiece

■ **FITZCARRALDO**
Tartan, 15, 1982
FEW Werner Herzog films capture his crazy, grandiose spirit so well as this amazing account of an Irish adventurer's plans to bring opera to the Amazon, hauling a steamship over a hill in the process. Herzog, his star Klaus Kinski and the crew went to hell and back shooting on location, but the difficulties never mar the result. The tape, annoyingly fuzzy in quality, launches a "Werner Herzog Collection" *that may revive interest in this* flamboyant director.

■ **HAWKS AND SPARROWS**
Connoisseur, PG, 1966
TWO surprises immediately hit you when Pasolini's film begins. The credits are sung, to facetious music. Then the veteran star Totò appears, bringing his own brand of brilliant physical comedy to an episodic film conceived as a walking tour through the *world's social problems* by a father (Toto), his son (Ninetto Davoli) and a talking, Marxist crow. Fascinating.

■ **LOVE & HUMAN REMAINS**
PolyGram, 18, 1993
MORDANT tales of love, sex and violence, distilled from Brad Fraser's play by Denys Arcand, *director of Jesus of Montreal.* Arcand excels with ensemble casts, and his new crop of faces, led by Thomas Gibson and Ruth Marshall, perfectly fit their confused, questing characters. They would benefit, though, from some extra space, and the film could lose its serial killer entirely: these tragi-comic, tangled *lives* are *absorbing* enough without any lurid *window-dressing.*

■ **THE RED SQUIRREL**
Tartan, 18, 1993
DELECTABLE games of lies and fantasies at a Basque campsite, where a failed rock musician (Nancho Novo) pretends to be the boyfriend of a pretty amnesia victim who proves his equal in spinning tall tales. This second film by Julio Medem, rising talent of *Spanish cinema,* is as frisky as the squirrel seen quivering in the trees. Medem debunks male machismo, plays with symbols and juggles moods with a light touch. And Emma Suárez is bewitching as the amnesiac.

■ ***WAGNER***
Connoisseur, 15, 1983
NOBODY *makes small films* about Wagner, least of all Tony Palmer, who takes more than seven hours, three symphony orchestras and the scenery of six countries to tell the story of the composer's life and work. Richard Burton, unfortunately, makes Wagner appear a ranting windbag. But you can always play Spot the Face with a cast that stretches from our chief acting *knights. Olivier, Gielgud and* Richardson, to the great Arthur Lowe. And Vittorio Storaro's images are sumptuous. Available on three tapes; screened originally as a ten-part television series.

■ **WOLF**
20:20 Vision, 15, 1994
JACK Nicholson may start out as a *wimp* with *pipe* and glasses, but the effects of his *wolf bite are soon visible in his* extra hair, senses and sexual appetite. The spectacle is always intelligent and amusing, though these same attributes rob Mike Nichols's plush film of some of the shocks usually expected from the werewolf genre. Michelle Pfeiffer's sullen sexpot *never convinces as a* partner for Nicholson, but she *enlivens the* gallery of off-beat characters. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

Victorian uncle gets a face-lift

The Horniman Museum is embarking on an extensive renovation programme

MUSEUMS

"Those who use their eyes obtain the most enjoyment and knowledge." Fred Horniman used to lecture visitors to his museum in Forest Hill, South London. "Those who look but do not see go away no wiser than when they came."

For almost a century the museum has *stood here on the South Circular,* a monument to Arts and Crafts architec*ture and to the Victorian ethic of* education for the masses by the benevolence of the *magnates. In many* minds it is the suburban equivalent of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, an unchanging tribute to the 19th century mania for collecting ethnography and natural history.

But what Horniman, MP and tea tycoon, and his architect, Harrison Townsend, failed to take due notice of was that the floor of the main south hall was laid directly on clay, with *central heating pipes dug into it: or to* foresee that one day the clay would dry *out, shrink, and the place would* collapse.

In the summer of 1991, engineers found that the heat of the pipes had desiccated the clay, which had shrunk, leaving a 9in gap between it and the floor. Building Research Establishment experts who had a look described the clay as "oven baked", *and discovered that if it was rehydrated, as was planned, it would simply crumble.* For 90 years or more, 3,000 ethnographic *objects, from sarcophagi to Navajo* sand paintings, had been imperceptibly sinking.

This month work began on the £1 million operation, mostly funded by the Department of National Heritage, to build a cage of steel supports, also creating a basement with extra exhibition, storage and workshop space. Reinstatement is due by October 1997.

But the catastrophe concentrated the *minds of Michael Houlihan, the director,* and his trustees — chaired by the *formidable former* director of the Science Museum, Dame Margaret Weston — beyond merely averting calamity. "We started to think about it as an opportunity," he says.

So a £13.5 million development is about to begin to transform the standard Victorian "much loved dan*druffy old uncle", as Houlihan calls it,* into an international study centre, *while remaining true to the art* nouveau of Townsend's creation, which *Sir* Nikolaus Pevsner described as "one of the boldest public buildings of its date in Britain".

As pickaxes are being wielded in the south hall, a new structure is growing to the west of it. This is the Centre for Ecological Understanding, or CUE, a timber ecological building, with a grass and wildflower roof. Recycled *newspaper is used as insulation, it has* natural ventilation, waste water is *cleaned in a reed bed and recycled* through a solar pump, and all the *materials are natural and non-toxic.* CUE will blend into the background of the 16 acres of gardens.

In a draft master-plan created for the Horniman by the Higgins and Gardner Partnership, the conservatory, moved from Horniman's home in South Croydon five years ago and re-erected to the north of CUE, will be joined to the music room (opened two years ago) by an atrium, with a new restaurant with a terrace opening on to the conservatory and garden.

All this is to be completed to celebrate the museum's centenary in *2001, but will constitute only half of the* eventual plan. CUE, which stands on concrete pads and can be shifted, will be relocated in the gardens and an £8.5 million education and study collections centre built in its place.

Horniman gave the museum and gardens to the people of London, and for most of its life it has been run by local authorities. Today it is in the care of the DNH, and responsibility for the gardens belongs to the Horniman management.

"The gardens were intended by Horniman to be an integral part of his *museum, and much of the scheme is* aimed at realising that." Houlihan says. "Horniman said *the museum* was for 'recreation, instruction and enjoyment', and perhaps with the substitution of education for instruction, that is still the purpose."

SIMON TAIT

The choice is yours — a night with Reg or a party with five guys named Moe. That's matchmaking, Theatre Club-style

A warm and witty goodbye

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

THE "two widows" syndrome — caused when someone dies, leaving behind a spouse and a secret, longterm lover who must grieve alone — is compounded, in *My Night With Reg*, by the fact that the dearly departed and those who mourn him are all men. Kevin Elyot's drama of gay manners and morals in the age of Aids deals with a group of old friends and their various relationships with Reg, who is never seen, but whose spirit pervades the play.

Starring John Sessions and David Bamber, *My Night With Reg* may deal with a serious subject, but its warmth and wit have made it a hit with audiences and the critics. Described in *The Sunday Times* as "one of the best new plays of the past few years", it has also won the *Evening Standard* Award for Best Comedy.

Theatre Club members can see the play at the Criterion Theatre, London on Monday and Tuesday evenings and at Wednesday matinees until March 8 for £12 (normal price £17.50). To book, telephone 0171-839 4488, quoting your membership number

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

LONDON
Sadler's Wells
Feb 21-22
● English Touring Opera presents Rossini's much-loved *The Barber of Seville* (Feb 21) and Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Feb 22). Both are sung in English. Theatre Club members can buy tickets in the stalls and dress circle for £15 (normally £20 and £25). Tel 0171-713 6000

CHESTERFIELD
Pomegranate Theatre
Feb 22-23
● FIRST prodcued in 1935, the classic thriller *Gaslight*, by Patrick Hamilton, tells of a Victorian husband's attempts to drive his wife insane. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £4 (normally £6). Tel 01246 232901

MOLD
Theatr Clwyd
March 3-7
● A MOTHER pays for her daughter's Cambridge education with the proceeds from the brothel she runs. This is the starting point for *Mrs Warren's Profession*. George Bernard Shaw's searing indictment of hypocrisy, as pertinent now as when it was written. Buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £9). Tel 01352 755114

John Sessions, David Bamber and the cast of Kevin Elyot's *My Night With Reg* — see opening listing

YEOVIL
Octagon Theatre
Feb 21
● DETECTIVE fiction author Andrew Wyke wishes to commit the ultimate crime. Enter his wife's young lover, Milo Tindle, and the stage is set for a fascinating cat-and-mouse game of intrigue and revelation in *Sleuth*, by Anthony Shaffer, starring Hilary Minster. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50). Tel 01935 22884

WOKING
New Victoria Theatre
Feb 28-March 2
● REVIVED to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Noël Coward's *Peace In Our Time* evokes the heroism and determination of wartime Britain. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £6 to £15). Tel 01483 761144

COVENTRY
Warwick Arts Centre
Feb 21-25
● MOLIERE'S *The School For Wives* takes a biting and hilarious look at sexual politics in the 17th century. Theatre Club members can buy the best available seats for £6.50 (normally £7.95 to £11.50). Tel 01203 524524

OXFORD
Playhouse
Feb 22-25
● AMERICAN composer Stephen Paulus's opera *The Woodlanders*, based on the novel by Thomas Hardy, features Elizabeth Rodger, Meurig Davies, Kathryn Hide, Mark Milhofer, Sarah Haigh and Lianne Skriniar. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £5 to £12). Tel 01865 798600

BRISTOL
Old Vic
March 9-15
● WHEN society fops meet provincials with pretensions all chaos is let loose in the marriage game. *She Stoops To Conquer*, by Oliver Goldsmith, is perhaps the most successful 18th-century comedy, an amoral and wickedly funny satire. Club members can buy tickets for £10.50 and £13 (normally £13.50 and £17). Tel 0117-987 7877

MOE ON THE ROAD

THE long-running musical tribute to Louis Jourdan, *Five Guys Named Moe*, will soon be conga-lining through Scotland. So leave any bad mood you may have at the door and get ready for classics like *Is You Is Or Is You Ain't* and *Nobody Here But Us Chickens*. Join the party in:

INVERNESS
Eden Court Theatre
Feb 28, March 3
● Tickets £10 for 8pm show, Feb 28 (normally £11, £20); £7 for 6pm show, March 3 (normally £15, £17). Tel 01463 234234

GLASGOW
King's Theatre
March 17-18
● Save £5 on full-price tickets — normally £12.50 (Fri) and £20 (Sat) — for 5.30pm shows. Tel 0141-227 5511

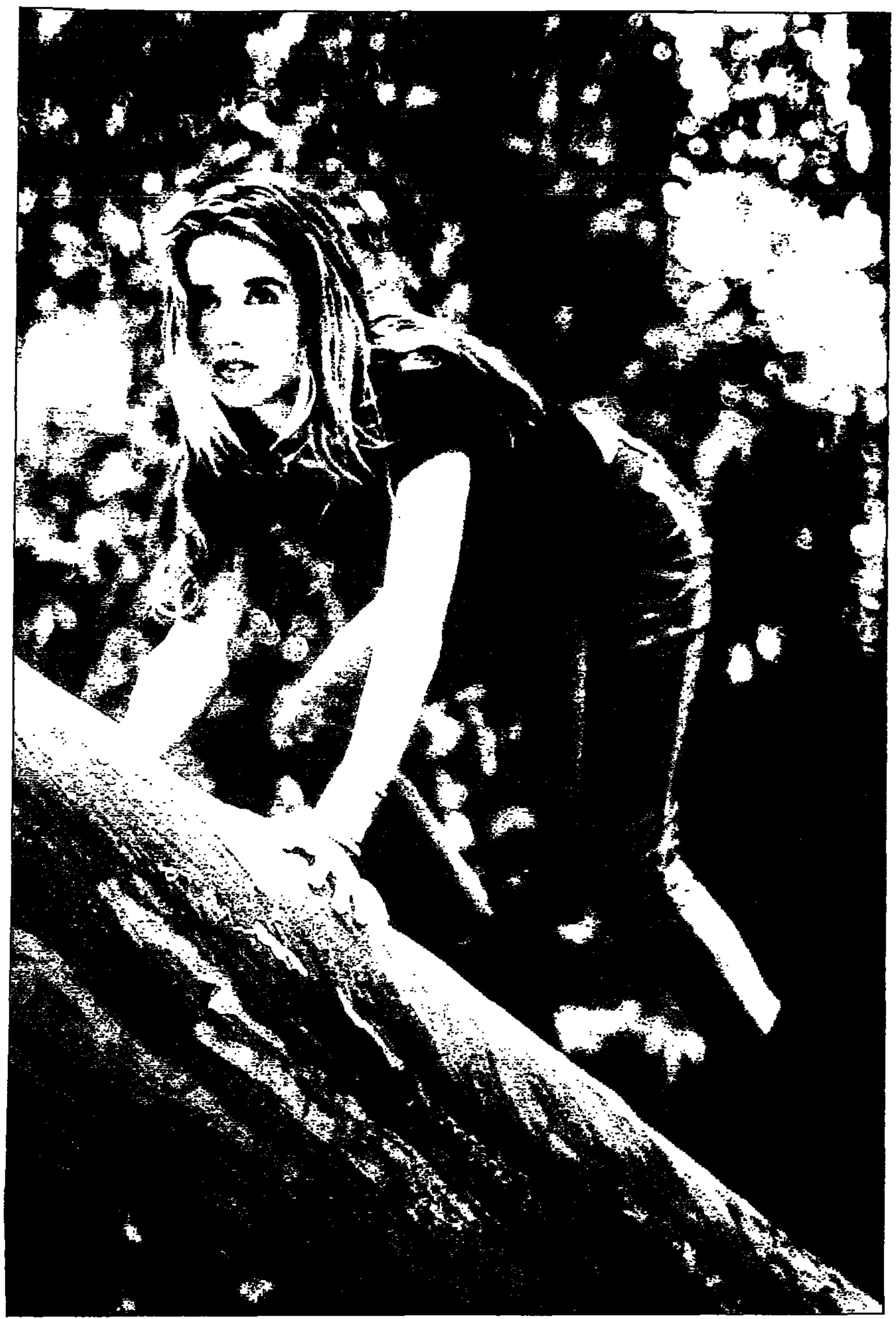
EDINBURGH
King's Theatre
March 21
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £17.50). Tel 0131-220 4349

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive is the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year and entitles members to buy two tickets for any club offer.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 0206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 071-387 9673

RECORDINGS: Heather Nova walks this world, starting in Bermuda; the hard bop blueprint dusted off; some Rattling good Schoenberg



On the way up: singer-songwriter Heather Nova occupies the middle ground between Annie Lennox and Sheryl Crow

POP

David Sinclair

■ HEATHER NOVA
Walk This World
Butterfly/Big Life BFLD 19★★

SOUNDING like the missing link between Annie Lennox and Sheryl Crow, the Bermudan singer-songwriter Heather Nova combines a traditional soft-rock sound with a seductive melodic flair on *Walk This World*.

Her lyrics conjure an unusual air of drama too, cleverly intertwining religious imagery with a plea for devotion of a purely personal nature: "With the light in our eyes it's hard to see/I'm not touched but I'm aching to be/I want you to come walk this world with me."

This is the first single from Nova's overlooked album, *Oyster*, released last year, and the package is fleshed out with two other songs, *Home* and *Blind*, which reveal a quieter and more haunting side to her work.

BLUES

David Sinclair

■ JOHN LEE HOOKER
Chill Out
Pointblank/Virgin
VPB 22★★

NOW 74 years old and with a deep, dark drawl as rich as burnished oak, John Lee Hooker has proved a bluesman of unbelievable resilience. And apart from collaborations with Carlos Santana, on the title track, and Van Morrison on a raucous medley of *Serves Me Right To Suffer* and *Syndicator*, the album highlights the classic, bare-bones style that has always been the essence of his artistry.

Half of the numbers are new Hooker compositions and half feature nothing more elaborate than the man's voice, accompanied by one or two guitars and the insistent tap of his foot on the studio floor. The best of these — a reworking of *Tupelo* and a new song called *Woman On My Mind* — are both slow, stark narratives which delve deep into the muddy well of emotion that lies at the heart of the blues.

Although Hooker is the master of the one-take, adlibbed vocal, there is, overall, a slight surplus of similarly slow, off-the-cuff vamps. But unlike his last album, the disappointing *Boom Boom*, released in 1992, *Chill Out* also boasts some splendidly focused ensemble performances, notably a buoyant arrangement of Brook Benton's 1960 hit, *Kiddio*, and a supremely swinging version of Hooker's evergreen barroom shuffle *One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer*.

In a genre where authenticity is at a premium, there is no more genuine article than this.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ CLIFFORD BROWN & MAX ROACH
Alone Together: The Best of the Mercury Years
Verve 526373-2 (2 CDs)★★★

ONE lesser known fact about Clifford Brown, the finest of the trumpeters to come out of the post-bebop era, is that as a student he initially majored in maths. It may be idle to speculate on the extent to which the mathematician's passion for order and structure influenced his music, yet what does set his playing apart from most of his contemporaries is its sense of form and its subtle combination of power and self-discipline.

He was only 25 when he was killed in a car crash, an event which shook the jazz world as much as James Dean's death touched film-goers a year earlier. Quite a number of the bebop players met premature ends, often through drink or drugs, or both. Brown's sunny disposition and his exemplary life-style only served to deepen the sense of loss.

The bristling quintet he led with the drummer Max Roach forms the cornerstone of this idiosyncratic compilation. Opening with *Cherokee*, taken from the popular *A Study in Brown*, the contents drift further afield to encompass dates with Sarah Vaughan and Helen Merrill as well as the "with strings" album made a year before Brown's death.

Together the Brown/Roach axis helped draw up the blueprint for hard bop, a virile formula that would be ground out by many bands over the next decade. Few of their rivals would bring as much rhythmic vitality to the task. The Miles Davis Quintet, which belonged in a category all its own, possessed a more lyrical touch, but for pure athleticism Brown and Roach took some beating. Even at the briskest tempo, Brown's articulation is never less than pin-sharp. And to hear his lush reading of *Star Dust* on the strings session is to glimpse one of the inspirations, surely, for Wynton Marsalis's orchestral disc *Hot House Flowers*.

Roach: turning up the heat

With the second disc the focus shifts to Roach's subsequent progress, culminating in a 1960 date with his wife-to-be, Abbey Lincoln, a singer who has always been an acquired taste. Roach's classical leanings lead him into an overblown set-piece, *Max's Variations*, made with the Boston Percussion Ensemble, but the more conventional pieces showcase his skill at turning up the heat on fleet-fingered soloists.

☐ JOE LOVANO
Rush Hour
Blue Note CDP-8292692★★

IN THE week that Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble come to town, Lovano's tenor improvisations, set above Gunther Schuller's chamber orchestrations, make rather more astringent listening. *Angel Eyes* and Mingus's *Peggy's Blue Skylight* both sparkle; the rest yield mixed results.

☐ JOE VENUTI & GEORGE BARNES
Gems
Concord CCD-6014★★

AN APT title for a violin and guitar masterclass, reissued from 1975, deliverd by a double act which seems constitutionally incapable of failing to swing. Venuti took out a patent on jazz violin playing in the 1920s. The fingers had lost little of their nimbleness half a century later.

20TH CENTURY

Stephen Pettitt

■ SCHOENBERG
Chamber Symphony No 1/ Erwartung/Variations for orchestra
Bryn-Julson/ Birmingham Contemporary Music Group/ City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Rattle
EMI 5 55212 2★★★

THIS is a distinguished addition of three key works by Arnold Schoenberg to Sir Simon Rattle's discography. He begins with a fast and furious, feverishly incisive yet always coherent performance of the First Chamber Symphony with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. The difference between this work, composed in 1906, and *Erwartung*, of 1909, is vast. Schoenberg's brand of expressionism was not just about the abandonment of established key-systems but about the breaking down of other regularities — metre and phrase — in favour of fluid gestures and colours that make possible this nightmarish distilled opera for one character.

It is a disturbingly compelling journey into the darkest recesses of the psyche, the dream we all experience where we have done something dreadful and want desperately to undo it. (In this case the protagonist stumbles upon the body of her lover, whom she might have killed herself.) There can be no beginning, middle nor end, only a nightmarish continuation. Phyllis Bryn-Julson sings marvellously, lost in the character's imaginings but also clear in her projection and hence dramatically potent. The band — now the full, mighty force of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra — plays alertly and keenly, thoroughly believing in the work, as any musician worth his or her salt should.

The disc ends with the Orchestral Variations, Op 31, dating from 1928 and arguably Schoenberg's orchestral masterpiece, a work that achieves richness and personality from the restrictions that many still claim rendered his music detached and inert. Not here. The language has the fluidity which perhaps eluded him in his earlier serial works for piano, for instance. And in any case what do we find after only a few bars of atonal oscillations but bland open fifths, pregnant with tonal implication, besides the Bach motif that emerges later with all the resonances that that implies.

The performance is again alive and clear, well shaped, strongly rhythmic (something that returned after Schoenberg's atonal phase) and with many thrilling moments, not least the vividly captured snarling of the tuba at the end of variation eight.

☐ WEBERN
Various works
Soloists/BBC Singers/ Ensemble InterContemporain/Boulez
Deutsche Grammophon 437 786-2★★★

THIS disc of Pierre Boulez's great love, the music of Webern, is probably a record in more senses than one; its 69 minutes of music is split into 42 tracks, of which the first, the Schoenberg-influenced and Brahmsian Piano Quintet of 1907, takes 13 minutes. But snippets Webern's fragments are not. The notes do not say what Boulez directed and what he left to the players of the Ensemble InterContemporain, but even without him beating time, as seems likely in the song cycles with four or fewer instruments, his presence as motivator is strongly evident.

Boulez: evident motivation

Expressive readings of the Five Pieces for Small Orchestra, Op 10, and the Concerto for Nine Instruments, Op 24, form the framework of this recital; the BBC Singers also make important contributions in choral pieces such as *Entflieht auf leichten Kahnen*, Op 2, a transitional piece, and in the two Op 19 Lieder for chorus and ensemble.

Otherwise, besides the Op 22 Quartet for violin, clarinet, tenor saxophone and piano — music as ultra-refined and exquisite as the more famous Concerto — this disc is a recital for voice and instrumental ensemble.

Françoise Pollet takes responsibility for the earlier works, including the four Orchestral Songs, Op 13, as well as the headily atmospheric, ripe songs of Opp 8 and 14, lending a richness that the purer-voiced, more intimate Christiane Oelze does not possess. Neverthless, Oelze's approach is perfectly suited to the severe but still strangely sensual canons of Opp 15, 16 and 17, where Webern's attempts to distance himself from his carefully chosen sacred and traditional texts only make his relationship with the words more tantalising.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI
Opera arias
Various orchestras and conductors
Cetra CDO 105★★

CETRA'S collection offers an excellent opportunity to consider the qualities — and defects — of the Italian tenor Ferruccio Tagliavini, who died three weeks ago at the age of 83. The earliest track on the disc, which spans almost 20 years of his career, is the Cherry Duet from Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*, dating from 1942. It comes from the complete recording conducted by the composer himself, with Pia Tassinari, the tenor's wife who predeceased him, as Suzel. There is an immediate sheen on the voice coupled with ravishing head tones, which he could well have learnt from Tito Schipa. Almaviva's *Ecco ridente*, recorded in 1961, showed that he could still command a good deal of grace, but the timbre shows signs of wear.

During the 1950s, when Tagliavini was in his forties, he took on a number of roles that were too heavy for him. At times he was apt to shout and interpolate the occasional sob — not acceptable in our more fastidious days. Some of this is reflected on Cetra, and his excursion into *Werther*, the last role he sang on stage, was ill advised on the evidence of *Ah non mi ridestar*.

But there are enough tracks that show Tagliavini at close to his best: Faust's *Dai prati* from *Mefistofele* and, above all, Elvino's *Prendi l'anel* from *Sonnambula*. Connoisseurs will relish the Act IV duet from *Bohème*, where Tagliavini is joined by Cesare Siepi, and regret that tenor and bass appeared so rarely in London.

☐ SUMI JO
Virtuoso Arias
Monte Carlo Orchestra/Olmi
Erato 4509-97239-2★★

LAST summer, Decca brought out a disc of French coloratura numbers with the Korean soprano Sumi Jo. Two more of the same come on Erato's collection *Virtuoso Arias*. The Bell Song from *Lakmé* and the Shadow Song from Meyerbeer's *Dinorah*, both assigned to the titular heroine, are dispatched with Sumi Jo's customary ease, her upper register pealing out with precise chime like Delibes's own belfry. She is at her best in the 19th-century French repertoire.

But also reflected here are her recent opera-house moves into Italian bel canto. Here the steps are less secure. The Mad Scene from *Lucia* lacks tension and Amina's closing aria from *Sonnanbula* is excessively moony until the lady's final outburst of rejoicing, when Sumi Jo lets the notes fly out. She is fine as the Queen of the Night, much less good as Strauss's Zerbinetta. To round off, there is a Korean folk song, sounding distinctly occidental in Marius Constant's scoring, but very catching if not very "virtuoso".

INSTRUMENTAL

Hilary Finch

■ RAVEL
Gaspard, Valses, etc
Boris Berezovsky
Teldec 4509-94539-2★★★

RAVEL'S little triptych of Symbolist horror, *Gaspard de la nuit*, has had the *frisson* factor restored at last. Even the most beguiling virtuoso can reduce its now familiar tableaux of water-sprite, gallows and nocturnal gnome to the single dimension of a set of piano studies. But by combining fluid fingerwork with ever-shifting levels of dynamic recession, Boris Berezovsky recreates not only the uneasy swing of a physical gibbet but Everyman's nagging fear of mortality, too.

Ravel: triptych of horror

This Ravel recital delights by provocation. Berezovsky takes a sidelong glance at the *Valses nobles et sentimentales*. His are neither: he prefers to play them with a sense of irony which the music can certainly take. Brittle sparks fly from his loudest playing; the quiet moments have a haunting knowingness.

The sudden rhythmic menace of the fragments from which *Les Valses* germinate gives warning that, for Berezovsky, this heady tribute to Strauss is, at heart, an apocalyptic dance of death. It is, with Berezovsky's *Sonatine*, one of the most persuasive performances of the work currently on disc.

☐ RODRIGO
Piano Works
Artur Pizarro
Collins Classics 14342★★

THE first performance of Ravel's *Gaspard* was given by the Spanish pianist Ricardo Vines, and his playing of Albeñiz's *Torre Bemeja* is affectionately celebrated by Rodrigo in a third piano piece, *Al Ombre de Torre Bemeja*. It concludes Artur Pizarro's enterprising recital of rarely heard piano pieces by a composer more often honoured in the guitar.

The entire programme is formed of music of recall and memory: vignettes of people, places and fellow composers, from the grave, aristocratic *pavanas* in the *Cinco Piezas del Siglo XVI* to the *Evocaciones* in homage to Turina. Pizarro shines new light on these bright inner visions of the blind Spanish composer.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ UNE FLUTE A L'OPERA
Gallois/London Festival Orchestra/Pople
DG 445 822-2★★★

FLAUTISTS in the 19th century had a less good time of it than they had done previously. Composers were ceasing to turn out works for the instrument in their customary profusion, and star flautists were driven to make paraphrases of popular operas.

Patrick Gallois selects four such paraphrases on this disc — on *La Traviata*, *Guillaume Tell*, *Un ballo in maschera* and *Carmen* — and renders them with all the skill and panache one could possibly ask for, ably accompanied by the London Festival Orchestra under Ross Pople. These are, then, transcriptions of a respectable vintage, though in places they have been revised (by Fabrice Pierre) to include more tunes from the operas in question.

The four paraphrases are separated by three better known operatic melodies (the Berceuse from Godard's *Jocelyn*, the Méditation from *Thaïs*, and the Song of the Nightingale from Victor Massé's *Les Noces de Jeannette*). The arrangements are again by Fabrice Pierre, who also plays harp. Gallois uses a beautiful African blackwood instrument made by Chris Abell, which enables him to achieve a notable mellowness of tone without any of the acoustic imperfections of older instruments.

☐ GLAZUNOV/DVORAK
Violin Concertos
Kaler/Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra/ Kolchinsky
Naxos 8.550758★★

THE invaluable Naxos project of providing the mainstream repertoire on its budget label continues apace. Two more gaps are usefully plugged by this disc, which couples the violin concertos of Glazunov and Dvořák in attractive recordings.

Glazunov, born in 1865, was hostile to the modernist school. Even so, many young composers, including Shostakovich, proclaimed a debt to him. Not that that is obvious from this typically melodic, easy-going work. It has a rich vein of lyricism that is tapped by the accomplished Russian violinist, Ilya Kaler, and the conductor Camilla Kolchinsky, one of only two prominent women conductors in the former Soviet Union.

The Dvořák concerto resonates with the characteristic sounds and rhythms of the Czech tradition — all of which are sympathetically communicated by the performers here. Dvořák's Romance in F Minor, Op 11, is a welcome filler.

★ Worth hearing
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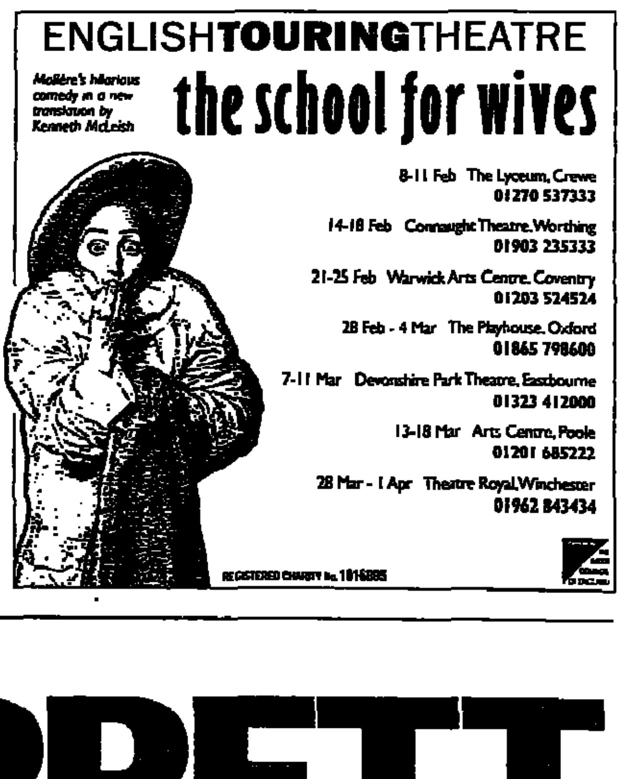

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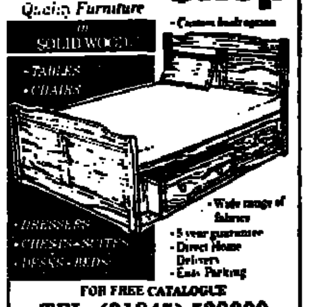

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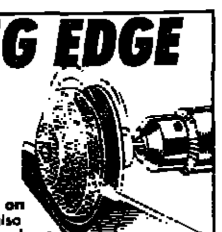

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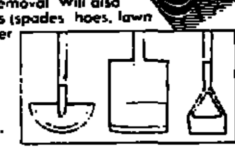

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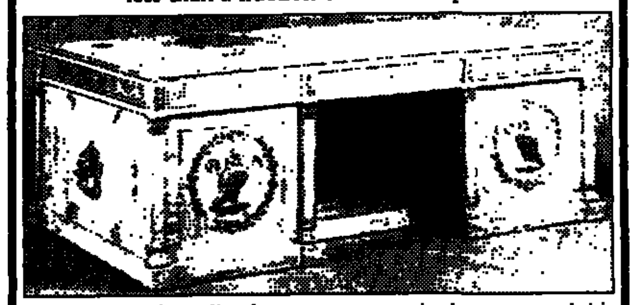

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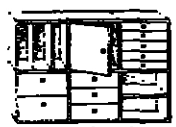

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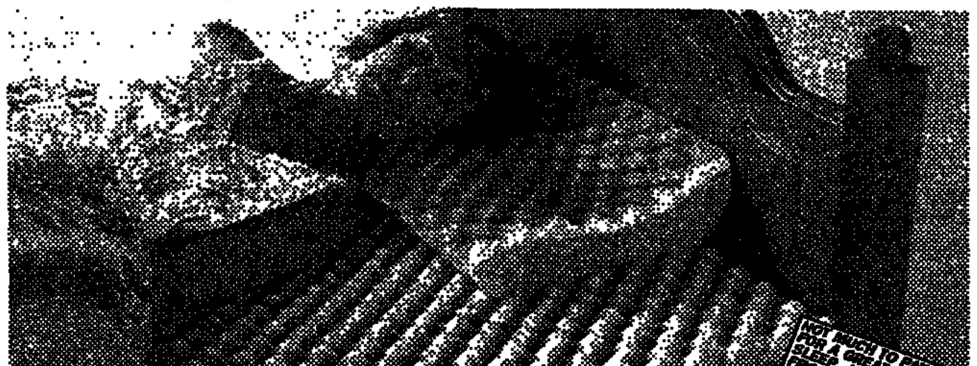
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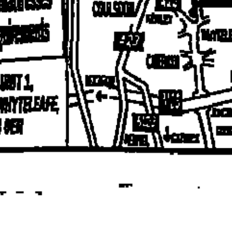

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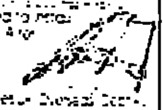

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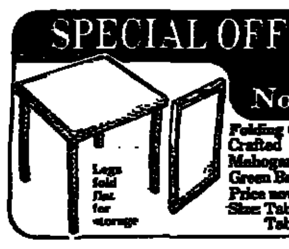
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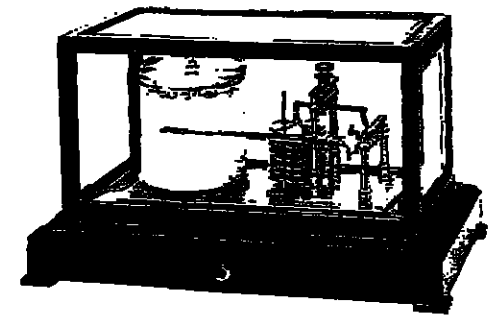

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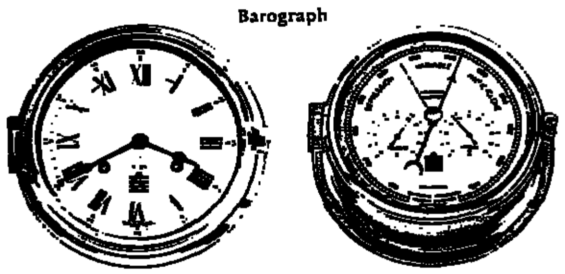

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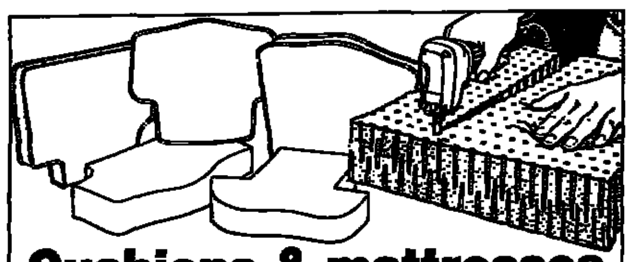

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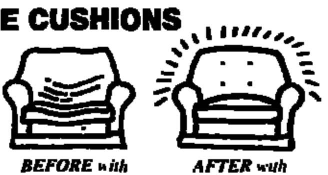

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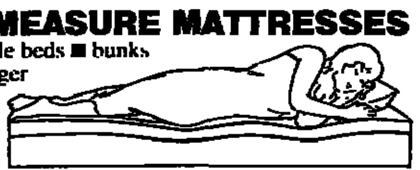

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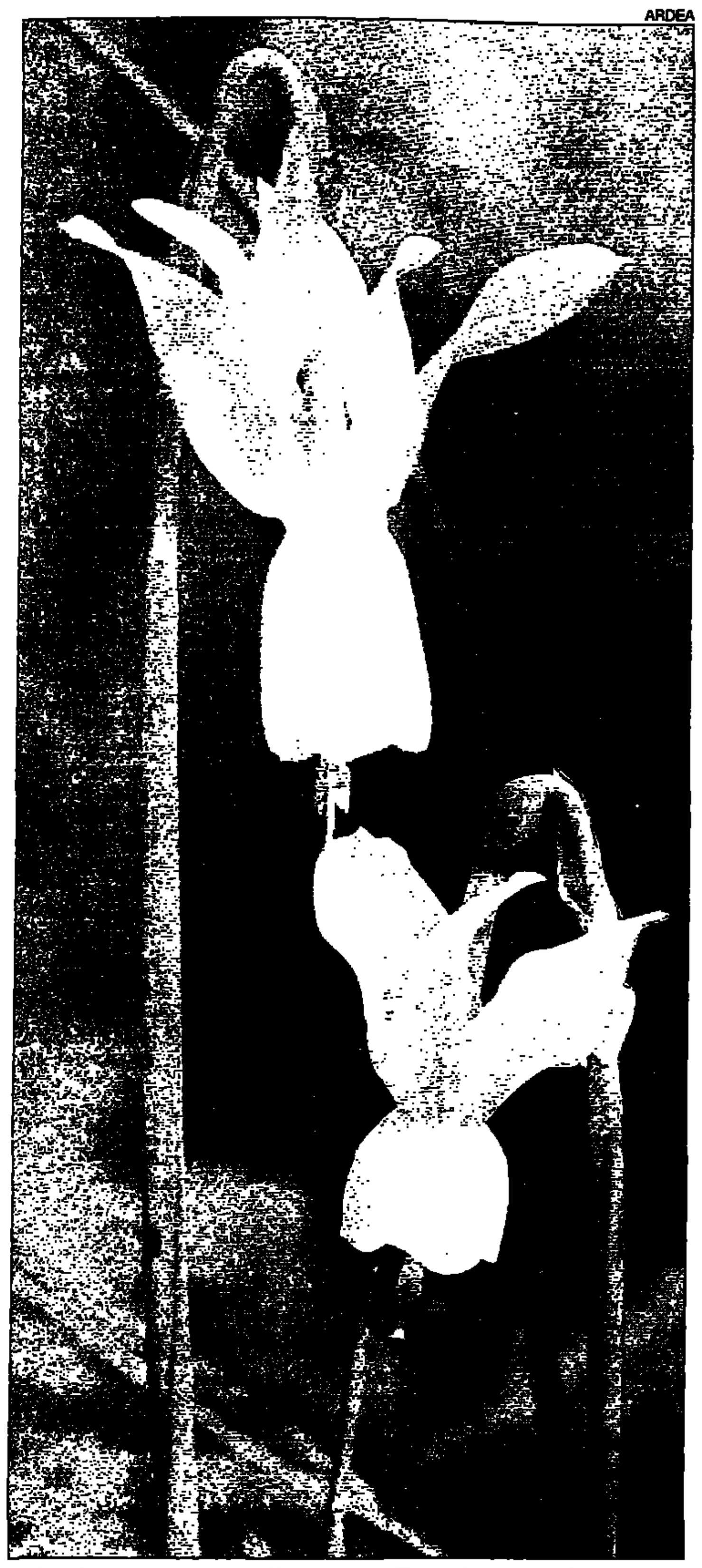
Add a splash of colour with spring flowers, advises **George Plumptre**, The Times Gardener


ARDEA

Narcissus triandrus, called Angel's Tears because of its droop

Light up your border with bulbs

People often speak enticingly of naturalised drifts of spring bulbs — carpets of aconitums or snowdrops. But there is nowhere in my garden to accommodate such drifts. I have no grass that I leave unmown, nor do I have a venerable beech to provide dappled sunshine, leaf mould and well-drained soil where they can spread from year to year.

But while some bulbs should always be grown in a natural manner, scattered in grass or a woodland setting, others are well-suited to borders and beds, which is all my garden has to offer. Now is the time to look around your garden and decide where they could be accommodated, so that in the autumn you can buy and plant the bulbs, confident they will emerge in the right place.

All bulbs like well-drained soil, so that they can dry out and ripen in summer, when they have finished flowering. The semi-shade and soil conditions beneath shrubs are fine, but avoid planting bulbs in the dense shade of an evergreen. In general, bulbs that produce small plants are best suited to borders because they die down quicker than, say, large daffodils.

If the bulbs are planted among herbaceous perennials, it is important to mark their position so that they are not inadvertently exposed when digging over a border in the autumn or winter. Bulbs are best planted in groups or clumps, so that they make an impact, and slightly deeper than is usually recommended. This means that after small early-spring bulbs have died down, you can sow annual seeds on top without disturbing them, filling a space between summer-flowering perennials.

Small scillas and their close relations, chionodoxas, are happy with border cultivation. The brilliant blue flowers of *Scilla siberica* 'Spring Beauty' have an impact in February and March that you would not suspect from a plant that only grows to 3in-4in. The other most commonly grown variety, *S. bifolia*, is nearly as bright. *Chionodoxa luciliae* looks at first glance very similar to the scillas, but the star-like blue flowers have a distinctive white centre. In addition to their predominant shades of blue, both scillas and chionodoxes have forms with pink and white flowers: *Scilla bifolia* 'Rosea' and *Chionodoxa forbesii* 'Rosea'. *Scilla tubergeniana* has hazy-white flowers with a delightful blue stripe through each petal, while *Chionodoxa luciliae* 'Alba' is pure white.

Puschkinias are not as well known as the small bulbs mentioned above but they are equally good near the front of a border or nestled beneath a deciduous shrub. They flower from March onwards, each stem carrying a number of small bell-shaped flowers. These are faintly blue-tinted white, with darker blue stripes. There is also a clear-white flowered form, *P. libanotica* 'Alba'. The bulbs of all three species should be planted 2in-3in deep.

Because of their similarities, it is probably best not to grow the species together, but they are ideal for mixing with other small spring plants, such as perennial pulmonarias which flower at the same time, or with white or yellow bulbs.

Snowdrops don't look right grown in a bed or border, but their relative, the spring snowflake, *Leucojum vernum*, mixes perfectly with these blue-flowered bulbs. The pure white flowers, which are rounded, like little cups, are superbly offset by shiny deep-green leaves. The bulbs should be planted 3in-4in deep and, like snowdrops, they can be increased by lifting and dividing after flowering.

Miniature narcissi are equally suitable for planting with blue. Larger daffodils look unsightly in a border when you are waiting for the leaves to die down, but most good miniature varieties have much less foliage and are usually happier with border or rock garden cultivation than being grown through grass. Among the best are the hybrids of *Narcissus cyclamineus*, which have distinctive swept-back petals. They grow to 6in-12in and include 'Tête-à-Tête', 'Jack Snipe' and 'February Gold'.

Other suitable plants are hybrids of *Narcissus triandrus*, known as 'Angel's Tears' because of the way the flowers droop. These graceful narcissus carry more than one scented flower to a stem and include white-flowered 'Thalia', dwarf cream 'April Tears' and pale-yellow 'Hawera'. A good guide is to plant narcissus at a depth three times that of the bulb.

The most impressive spring bulb for border planting has to be the Crown Imperial, *Fritillaria imperialis*. Tall stems grow to 3ft and higher, with whorls of glossy green leaves covering the lower half. They are topped by clusters of orange-red or yellow bell-shaped flowers with a distinctive "crown" of green bracts. They like a rich soil, preferably slightly alkaline, and deep planting at 6in or more.

The popularity of growing spring bulbs in a "natural", grassy setting has heightened the demand for more delicate fritillarias, such as the Snake's Head, *F. meleagris*. But the tradition of spring bulbs in a border should not be abandoned. Nothing emphasises this better than clumps of mixed-colour Crown Imperials, especially as the centrepiece of a group of narcissus and scillas.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Continual rain has caused border earth to become compacted, even waterlogged. Fork the ground to let in air and encourage excess moisture to dispel. If possible, fork in compost or leaf mould at the same time.*
- *In areas where the ground is not too wet, plant sprouted seed potatoes under a cloche or plastic for an early crop.*
- *Sow tomato seeds in the greenhouse.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q Can you suggest ground cover plants which would survive in a bed under some straggly box trees and a yew? It is not completely shaded, but dry. — Mary Douglas-Bate.

A There are three options. First, you could simply not plant at all beneath your trees, but clean up their straggly trunks, bring the grass up to the trees, and enjoy the coarse grey corrugation of the box bark and flaking brownish red of the yew.

Alternatively, you could drastically cut back the trees in March, so that they become fully clothed to ground level, thus solving the problem of planting.

Finally, if you opt for ground cover, you will need to build up a layer of soil on the surface, with compost, imported soil or leaf mould. Box and yew surface roots will come running for the compost, so choose plants which also run on the surface. Try evergreen *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae*, or *Waldsteinia ternata*, which makes a mat of running surface stems covered in yellow flowers. Where there is sun to open the flowers, *Crocus tommasnianus* will naturalise among other plants. The evergreen *Iris foetidissima* will bring some semblance of lushness with its strappy leaves and red berries.

Q We are about to move to a new house with an old yew tree. How should I look after it? — Caroline McAslan, Cardiff.

A No special care is needed. But remember this: yews will grow in full sun or deep shade. A yew grown in the shelter and shade of other trees will not have the same ability to support itself as a tree grown in the open. So often I see a yew cleared of neighbouring trees in the hope that it will fill out into a majestic, black-green crown. It then blows over. Such transitions from deep shelter to full exposure must be gradual, so the roots have time to develop a stronger hold. Remember that the plant is highly poisonous to humans and animals, so be careful how you dispose of prunings.

Q I have had a *Chimonanthus fragrans* bush for 20 years, with hardly a flower. Last year I cut back half the bush hard and, after that, the old wood produced masses of flower. What is going on? — Mrs D. Preston, Leamington Spa.

A Winter sweet is one of the most deliciously scented shrubs in the garden, although the flowers themselves are not showy, and appear on leafless winter twigs. New plants take a few years for the growth to slow down and for the production of flowering wood to begin. Poor summers or cold climates lead to few or sometimes no flowers — your bush may require a hotter, sunnier position.

Pruning is best kept to a minimum, but older branches may be cut out if they become weak. Harder pruning is only required on wall-trained specimens. It may be that your plant flowered not because you pruned it, but because something else altered near by to give it more sun.

- *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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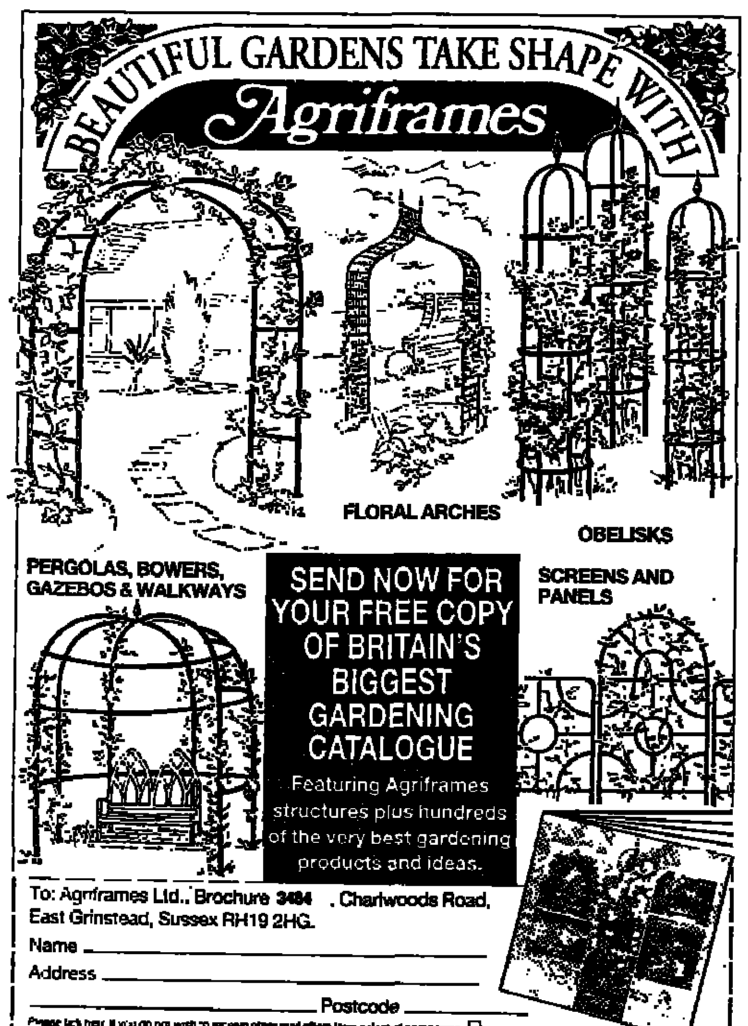
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هكذا من الاهل

David Blundell explains the lure of his allotment ... and offers some tips for those tempted to follow in his footsteps

Why Britons still dig for vegetables

This is probably the only time of year I could find the time to write this. Admittedly, there is plenty of lime-dressing to be done, rough autumn digging to be forking over, and seed beds to be prepared. And any day now the *Helix aspersa* (garden snail) will be gathering its forces for a spring offensive, when it will venture out once more upon its single foot, intent on inflicting nocturnal GBH on unwary cabbages. But these are still the last few weeks before the warmer weather arrives, when the vegetable gardener can spend some guiltless time away from the plot.

I am an allotment holder, one of that band of enthusiasts who believe that they can outdo the farmer at his own game.

The 30ft by 80ft plot in question, on the heavy clay of north Hertfordshire is, in fact, my second allotment, and costs £16 a year to rent. The first was on a hillside in Derbyshire, frustratingly situated to catch the first of the autumn frosts and the last of the winter blizzards. It was a tough initiation into vegetable growing — anyone who could grow anything more exotic than grass there would have little trouble in the softer south.

I took on that first allotment during the 1970s in a fit of enthusiasm shared with thousands of fellow fans of Richard Briers in *The Good Life*. What better way, we argued, for the suburban male to assert himself than to rent a few poles of land (most of us out on the allotments have never adopted that new-fangled metric system, you know), and there to grow and gather.

The Good Life was, of course, a fantasy, but it did inspire many of us to take up a hobby which has improved our leisure and enhanced our diet and bank balances.

We were, probably unknowingly, following an ancient tradition. There were allotments even in feudal times, although you might then have found yourself forbidden by your liege lord to dig, or even visit, your land on the sabbath, or to grow flowers. In the 19th century, they were a means of providing the indigent poor with sufficient sustenance to keep out of the workhouse. And by the First World War, when half the nation faced starvation, they were a matter of life and death for thousands of families.

> ‘Our diet and our bank balance have improved’

Between the wars enthusiasm for the allotment waned, and it increasingly took on a cloth-cap image, which it has still not thrown off. Then, in the Second World War, there was an astonishing outbreak of horticultural enthusiasm as the nation was enjoined to become self-sufficient in food. By the closing days of the war, potatoes, cabbages and sprouts were flourishing throughout the royal parks and more than one million people were "Digging for Victory".

Today, there are perhaps 400,000 allotments being worked in England and Wales, according to Geoff Stokes, of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). He believes the fall in numbers is due not so much to lack of interest as demand for development land from builders and local councils. There has been particular pressure on sites once regarded as sacrosanct since 1980, when, under the Local Government Planning and Land Act, councils were given the right of disposal over statutory allotments.

JOHN CHAPMAN

David Blundell on his 30ft by 80ft allotment in Hertfordshire, which costs £16 a year to rent from the local council and provides most of his family's vegetables — and great pleasure

If you decide to take up the challenge of an allotment, here are a few ground rules. Look for a site with level, deep, workable soil. Make sure it has an open aspect and good drainage — vegetables hate the shade, and they detest having their roots in standing water. If the site is being worked, check that the plants are in good condition. And if it is not tenanted, what state are the weeds in? A happy weed means healthy soil.

If possible, make sure you have good neighbours. A neglected, weed-infested plot next door will inevitably be a source of pests. I speak, unfortunately, from experience.

Ask about theft and vandalism in the area: these have been increasingly in the news recently as enraged allotment holders have dealt out summary justice at gunpoint. But thieving is nothing new — last year I lost perhaps 10 per cent of my crops, including a complete row of cabbages in one night.

Expect to pay from £8 to £16 a year in rent, probably to a local council, which own most sites. According to Mr Stokes, it is possible to rent land in South Wales for £4, while greedy London boroughs may demand as much as £50. Just as important as the cost are facilities — standpipes and stout perimeter fencing may make it worth a premium.

When you have selected your plot, what next? Unless you already have a garden, you will need some basic tools. It is probably safe to ignore most of the hype on the advertising pages of gardening magazines. Nobody needs a stainless-steel dibber when they have an old spade shaft to hand, and your leeks certainly won't know the difference.

Essential tools are: a fork, trowel, rake, Dutch hoe (the sort with a cross-blade attached to two prongs), a length of string attached to two sticks to mark out your rows, a pocket knife and, most importantly, the best-quality spade you can afford. I have seen mechanical Rotovators used but, in my experience, they are suitable only for ground already well cleared. Otherwise they bury the roots and seeds of weeds at a depth ideal for future germination.

The choice of crops is largely a matter of trial and error, according to soil type and climate, but here are some reliable varieties from my own list this year: cabbage — Greyhound, Golden Acre, F1 Advantage, Ormskirk Rearguard; carrot — Autumn King; cauliflower — All the Year Round, Dok, Walcheren Winter Thanet; leek — Musselburgh; lettuce — Webb's, Winter Density; onion — Bedfordshire Champion, Senshyu Yellow (for summer sowing, maturing the next July); tomato — Gardener's Delight; turnip — Golden Ball; parsnip — Tender and True; brussels sprout — Bedfordshire Fillbasket; broad bean — Aquadulce, Hylon; dwarf French bean — Safari, The Prince; runner bean — Butler.

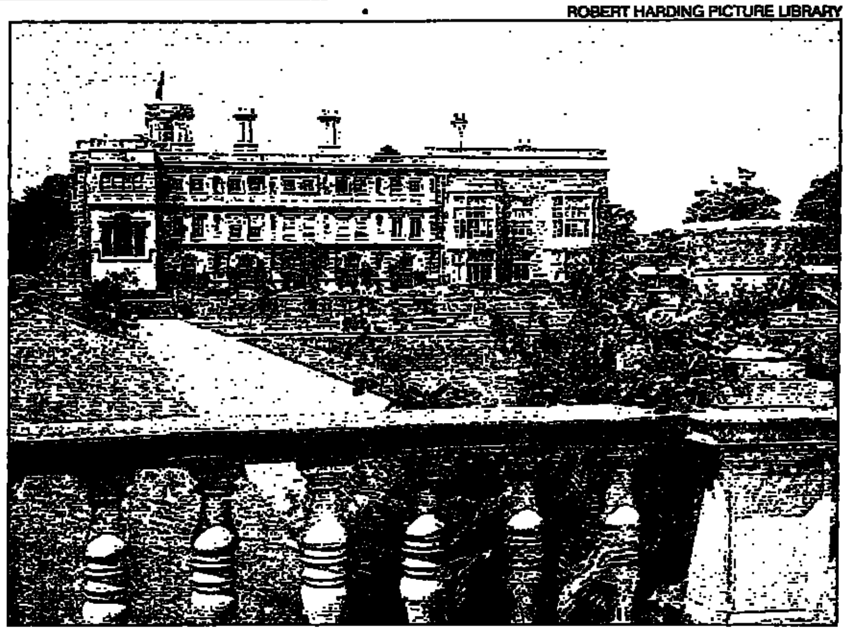
A huge range of potatoes is available, but it may be best to stick to first-earlies in order to avoid the depredations of slugs. My choice would be Epicure and Sharpe's Express.

The winter months, when it is too wet to venture on to your plot, can be some of the most rewarding, for it is then that you can sit in an armchair and absorb the wisdom of great gardeners such as Brigadier C. E. Lucas Phillips, author of *The Small Garden* (Pan Piper). This was my first gardening book and it has probably never been bettered for easy-to-follow, no-nonsense advice throughout the gardening year. Unfortunately it is now out of print, but can still be found in second-hand bookshops. If you see a copy, don't hesitate, buy it.

Second choice would be the excellent *Expert* series, by Dr D. G. Hessayon (Transworld Publishers, 61-63 Uxbridge Road, London W5 5SA, £4.99).

● *The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, Odell House, Hunter's Road, Corby, Northants NN17 5JE (01536 266576), publishes a quarterly magazine and offers seed to members at a discount of up to 50 per cent. Individual membership costs £6.45 a year; group membership, 44p per member.*

Gardens to visit



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Castle Ashby Gardens is one of Capability Brown's finest landscapes

☐ Hodsock Priory, Blyth, Nottinghamshire (01909 591204)

On B6045 Blyth to Worksop road, two miles from A1. Open daily throughout February, weekdays 1pm-4pm, weekends 10am-4pm. Thereafter open April 1 to July 30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Adults £2, accompanied children free.

Hodsock Priory has made a speciality of opening throughout February for its impressive display of snowdrops. The five-acre garden is on a site recorded in the *Domesday Book* and the snowdrops have spread into drifts along the banks of the old moat which forms part of the garden boundary and in the woodland beyond formal terraces and lawns. There is also a wide variety of other early spring flowering plants: carpets of yellow aconites and pink and white cyclamen, hellebores and delicate Irish reticulata, and flowering shrubs such as scented *Viburnum fragrans*.

☐ Hill House, Landscove, Ashburton, Devon (01803 762273)

House was vicarage next to Landscove church, reached via A384 Totnes-Buckfastleigh Road. Open daily 11am-5pm. Free.

Hill House's garden was made famous in the writing of the distinguished gardens author Edward Hyams, who died in 1975. The present owners have spent more than a decade restoring the garden while at the same time expanding into a commercial nursery. Snowdrops and cyclamen carpet the ground beneath an ancient cedar. Architectural features include a fine conservatory and a temple.

☐ Painswick Rococo Garden, The Stables, Painswick House, Painswick, Gloucestershire (01452 813204)

Just outside Painswick on the B4073. Open Wednesday to Sundays, 11am-5pm. Adults £2.50, children £1.25.

This delightful rococo garden is a triumph of restoration, carried out over a number of years by the owners Lord and Lady Dickinson, and recently completed. The blueprint for the restoration was a 1748 painting of the landscape by Thomas Robins done at the time of the garden's creation. The woodland walks which reveal a series of delightful buildings, are enjoyable at any time of the year, but in February and March have the added bonus of the now renowned wood carpeted with naturalised snowdrops.

☐ Castle Ashby Gardens, Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire (01604 696234)

Five miles east of Northampton between A45 and A428. Open daily 10am to dusk. Adults £2, children £1.

One of Capability Brown's finest landscapes — laid out during his most productive years in the 1760s and early-1770s — provides the setting for the originally Elizabethan house. Purists would say that Italianate terraces, added during the early Victorian period, intrude into Brown's plan. But recent restoration of the terraces and their planting by the Marquess of Northampton (whose family built the house and have lived there ever since) is something to be admired in the summer. At this time of year, walks through the expansive acres that Brown so skilfully planned, with lakes, architectural features, and carefully positioned trees, lead through a succession of early bulbs and woodland flowers such as aconites, snowdrops, wood anemones and celandines.

☐ Greenbank Garden, Clarkston, Glasgow (0141 639 3281)

Six miles south of city centre, on Flenders Road, Clarkston. Open daily all year, except December 25-26 and January 1-2, 9.30am to sunset. Adults £2, children £1.

Garden enthusiasts tend to visit Greenbank during the summer to enjoy the traditional Scottish fruit and flowers mixture in the walled garden to the south of the 18th-century house. The walled garden has been planted to assist the practical demonstrations that take place. But in early spring it is most interesting to see how the area is structured all year, for instance by the rondel of Yew hedges around the central sundial. Outside the walled garden, snowdrops and other early spring bulbs along the woodland walk make this area especially enjoyable, and show how the garden provides an idyllic year-round retreat from the Glasgow conurbation that surrounds it.

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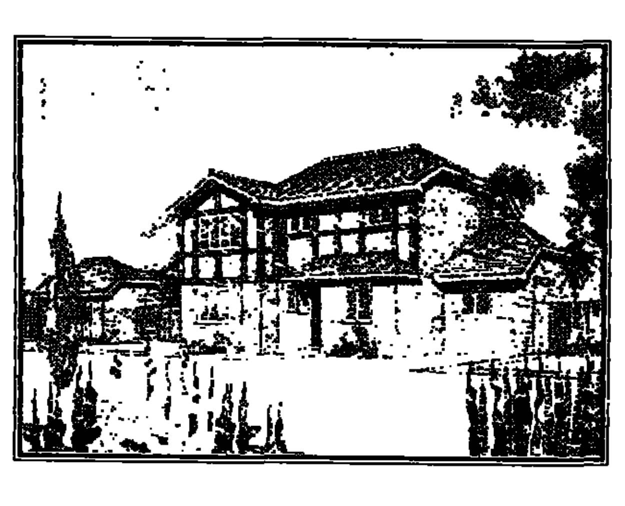

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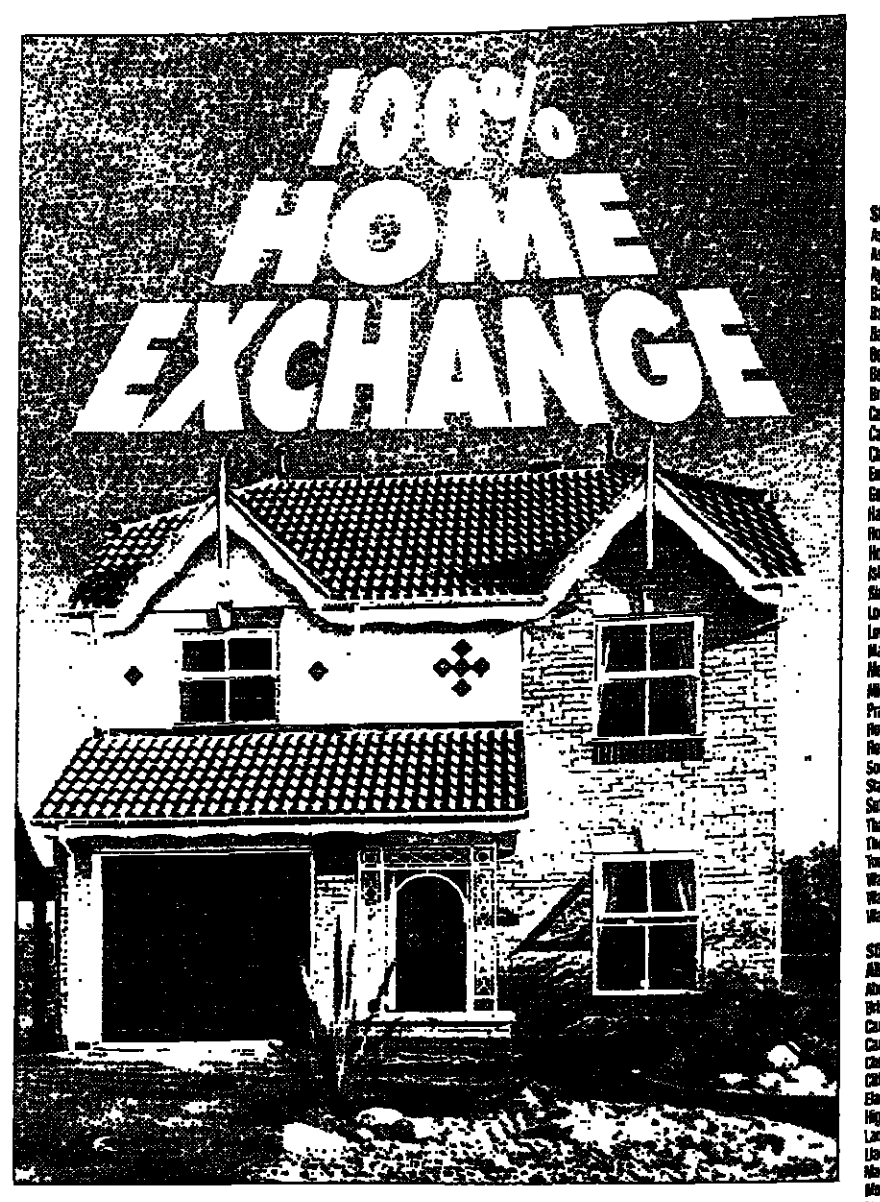

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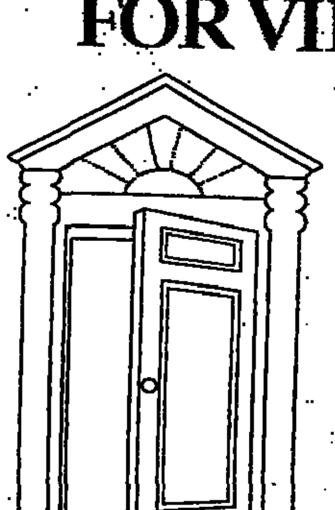

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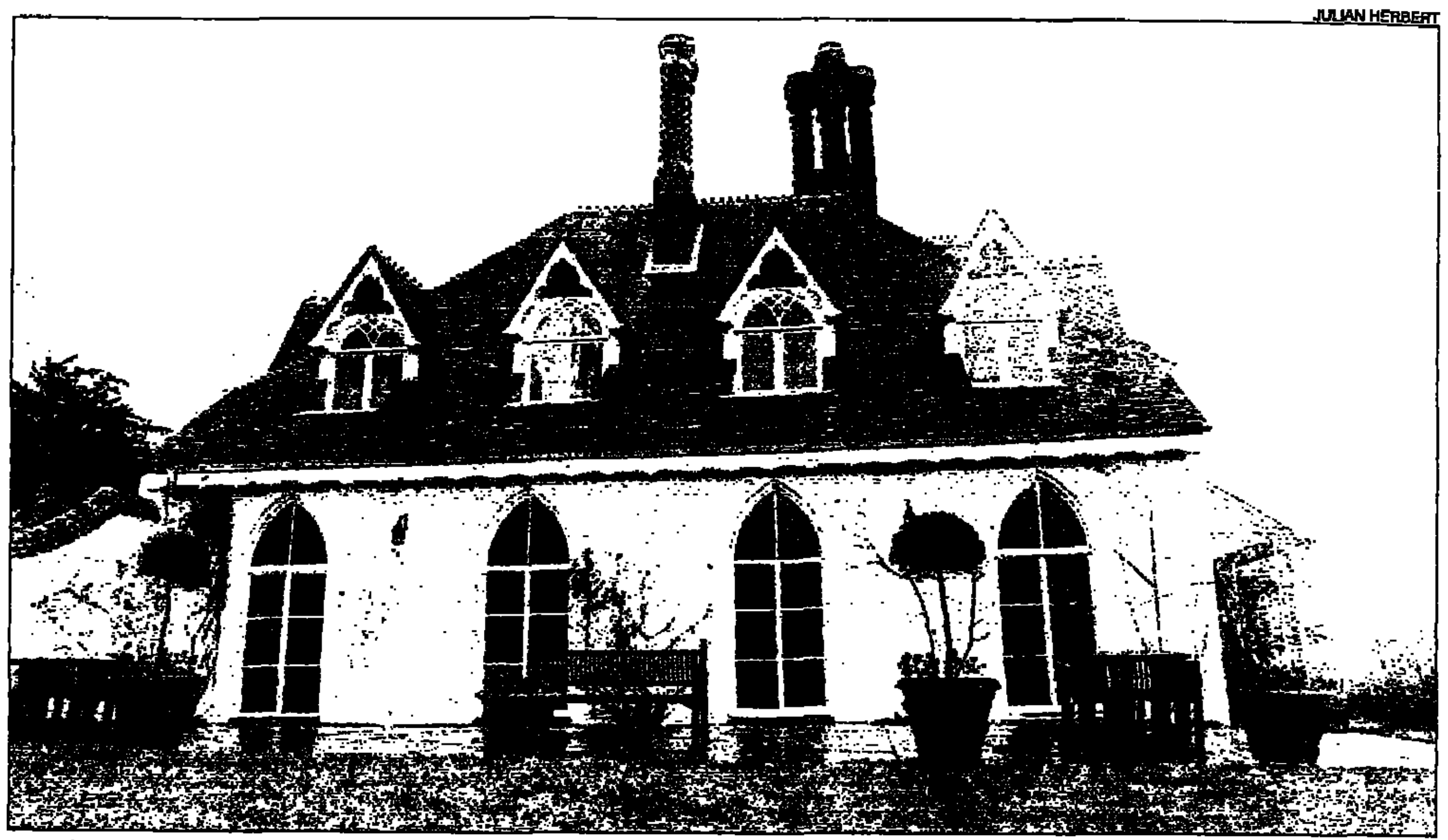
The Buccaneers was filmed at this house — as was an Agatha Christie. Film and TV companies are always on the lookout for locations



JULIAN HERBERT

Houghton Lodge, location for BBC1's *The Buccaneers* starring, left, Connie Booth (Miss March) and Cherie Lunghi (Laura Testvalley)

The house that found stardom

When Brigitte Rigby, a film location manager, was searching for a suitable property to feature as Runnymeade Cottage in the BBC's £5 million drama *The Buccaneers*, a lock-keeper on the river Test in Hampshire led her to Houghton Lodge.

Ms Rigby's brief was to find a riverside property devoid of modern landscaping at which to film Edith Wharton's story of high society in the 1870s.

"After months on the phone to the National Rivers Authority I finally tracked down the lodge, and as soon as I saw it, I knew it was what we wanted," she says.

Last May she visited Captain Martin Busk and his wife, Anthea, at their home in Stockbridge to ask permission to use the eight-bedroom "cottage *orné*", probably built around 1798 and first described in *The Times* in 1801, when the house was put up for auction. The white-walled building with its arched, gothic-style windows would provide a dramatic backdrop for the story of four young American belles launching themselves on to the London Season.

"The house has been used before, in Agatha Christie's *Murder at the Vicarage*," Capt Busk says, "but this new film was a much larger project that involved changing the property to suit the period."

At the beginning of July, furnishings were removed from four ground floor rooms. The sunny-yellow walls were covered with heavily patterned William Morris wallpaper, and vanloads of Victorian furniture and bric-a-brac were installed. Electricians removed sockets, and the radiators were boxed in and covered with wallpaper to hide them. All traces of contemporary life vanished. "A section of our home was transformed from a traditional English house to a dark, oppressive place filled with clutter," Capt Busk says.

Outside, a painted screen was erected at first floor level to cover a modern awning, and a fence was dismantled. Any "20th-century" plants were removed from the gardens, and even stray stinging nettles were dug up so that the barefoot actresses could dance safely around the lawns. The grass was left to grow for a month before the start of filming to obliterate any giveaway lawnmower stripes.

The only evidence that remains of the two weeks' filming is a ramshackle wooden jetty, built at the bottom of the front lawns, which the Busks decided to keep. Everything else was restored exactly as it had been. A month after filming finished, there was nothing that told of the 60 crew that had worked there each day. It is now impossible to imagine the two huge electricity generators and Portaloos parked in the drive, or the catering van that supplied a double-decker bus full of hungry workers.

"At any one time, there were up to 20 people in one room filming a particular scene," Capt Busk says, "but it really was no trouble at all. The crew were totally self-sufficient and didn't rely on us for anything, except a water supply. We have a separate wing, which we use as our living space, so they didn't interfere with our daily life."

It is this flexible approach by the owners that is essential for a location to work, Ms Rigby says. "You must be prepared for your home to be in total upheaval for the duration of filming, but it will all be restored faithfully afterwards — maybe with improvements."

The Busks in their restored sitting room after filming

"We thoroughly enjoyed the filming, and would definitely invite them back," Capt Busk says. "Brigitte gave us precise details of the areas she wished to use well in advance, and stuck rigidly to the plans and timescale. Everyone was extremely friendly."

In turn, Ms Rigby describes Houghton Lodge and its owners as the ideal partnership. "It's not simply about having a grand property," she says. "Rooms need to be large enough to allow a crew the space to film, and the residents — and their neighbours — must place their total trust in us as professionals."

On the cash side, your home could bring in up to £1,000 a day, plus expenses incurred in changing and restoring the property.

"We are always on the lookout for properties of all shapes and sizes, with understanding owners and enough room to park our vehicles nearby," Ms Rigby says. "All those television scenes have to be shot somewhere."

Lights, cameras, action ... it could be your house next.

KAREN KAY

FACT FILE

☐ For your property to be included on the BBC Location List, send photographs of the exterior and interior to: Anne-Marie Baker, Location Facilities, Centre House, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

☐ The Lavish Locations agency is constantly searching for new film and television locations. Send interior and exterior photographs of your house, with a covering letter, to: Lavish Locations, 14 Montpelier Row, Twickenham, west London TW1 2NQ (0181-744 2992).

☐ For details of other film location agencies, write to the British Film Commission, Level 4, 70 Baker Street, London W1M 1DJ.

☐ Never part with any money to be put on an agency's books.

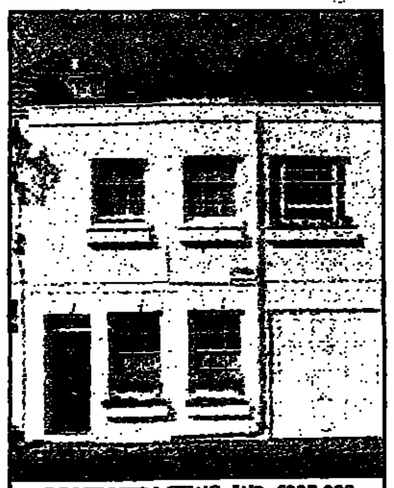
☐ A revised edition of the book *Filming and Photography for Historic Houses and Gardens*, by the Historic Houses Association, will be launched on March 23 at the association's one-day seminar for members on the use of property as film locations. The seminar will be held at The Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London. For information on the book and seminar, call 0171-259 5688.

☐ The gardens at Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge, Hampshire, which feature a traditional kitchen garden and the Hampshire Hydroponicum (where plants grow without soil), are open to the public from March 1 to September 30 on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, 10am-5pm; Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 2-5pm. Entry £2.50. The house itself is open by appointment only. For further information, telephone 0264 810177 or 0264 810502.

☐ *The Buccaneers*, Sundays on BBC1, 9pm. Tomorrow's episode is the third of five. Each episode is repeated the following Saturday on BBC2, 10pm.

CORRECTION

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards does not publish a leaflet about English playing cards as incorrectly stated in Weekend on February 4. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to the Company and to our readers.



CONDUIT MEWS, W2 £235,000
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KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

PULBOROUGH RD, SW18 £225,000
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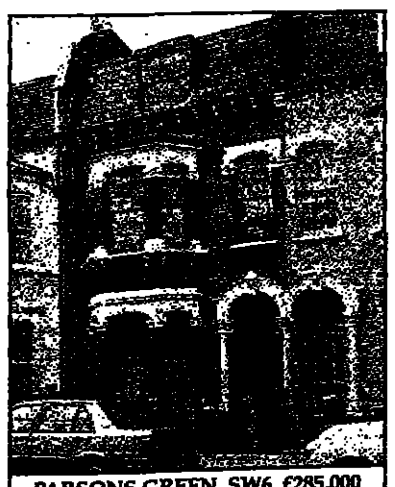
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172



PARSONS GREEN, SW6 £285,000
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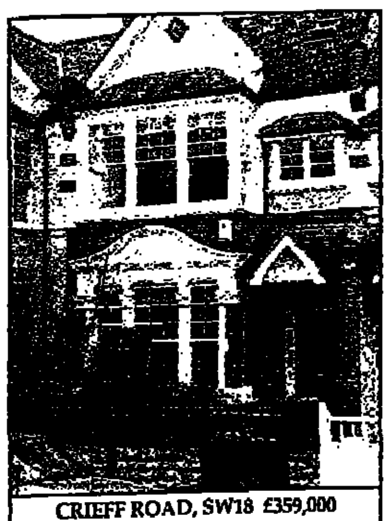

CRIEFF ROAD, SW18 £359,000
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RENTALS

ALMA TERRACE, W8 £1,200 p.w.
A superb house on 4 floors, close to the amenities of High Street Kensington. 3 double beds, 2 baths, 2 clkrms, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, garden. Unfurnished

HALSEY STREET, SW3 £900 p.w.
A pretty period house on 4 floors with a paved garden & terrace. 3/4 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 2 receps, study area, kit/b'fast rm, garden, terrace. Furnished

CENTRAL LONDON: 0171-491 4311

MELINA PLACE, NW8 £650 p.w.
A charming studio house with a roof terrace and parking for one car. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception rm, fitted kitchen. Furnished

LINNELL DRIVE, NW11 £1,500 p.w.
An imposing detached neo-Georgian house in a quiet cul-de-sac with direct access onto the Heath Extension. 6 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, conservatory, kit, garage, garden. Unfurnished

NORTH LONDON: 0171-722 3336

WOODSIDE, SW19 £461 p.w.
A well proportioned period house within 10 minutes walk of Wimbledon Station. 5 double beds, bath, shower rm, kit/b'fast rm, large garden. Furnished

LANCASTER RD, SW19 £288 p.w.
A charming 1st floor conversion flat in the Village. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower rm, reception rm, kitchen/dining rm, private rear garden. Furnished

WIMBLEDON & SURREY: 0181-946 9447

HAMPSHIRE
Chawton
In an old, well-known village, a pretty cottage of 16th century origin. 3 beds, bath, dining hall, sitting rm, study, kit, shower/clkrm, sun rm, double garage, lovely garden.
About 1 acre.

Price on Application

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EAST SUSSEX
Crowborough
A fine country house with views over Ashdown Forest. 4 beds, 2 baths, 4 receps, garaging, indoor pool, gdns, woodland, paddock, lake. About 9 acres. (89 acres of adjoining woodland available.) JSA: Wood & Pilcher 01892 665666

Price Guide:
£395,000

EAST GRINSTEAD:
01342 326326

OXFORDSHIRE
Piddington
In a delightful setting, a listed cottage dating from the 16th century 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, dining hall, kit/b'fast rm, office, 3 car ports, outbuildings, gardens & grounds.
About 3 acres.

Price Guide:
£275,000

OXFORD:
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HAMPSHIRE
New Forest
A family house with a garden of about ¾ of an acre. 4 beds, bath, shower rm, jacuzzi rm, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, garage, garden rm. 2nd flr with potential for further bedrooms/nursery.

Price Guide:
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LYMINGTON:
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BOOKS

Second helping of honeydew

The discovery of some 300 previously unknown poems by Coleridge, reported earlier this week, is an astonishing literary event, and would be so even if none of these largely occasional verses is judged to be worthy of the genius who wrote the first lines of *Kubla Khan*. Since the sleuth who has so diligently added to what was already a formidable *Nachlass*, Jim Mays, will also be giving us dozens of new readings of the poet's handful of masterpieces (he says *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* exists in more than 100 versions), there can be no doubt that Professor Mays's three forthcoming volumes of the *Collected Works* will consign all older editions of the poetry to the dustbin of scholarship.

Coleridge's leading biographer, Richard Holmes, must now be saying a silent prayer of gratitude that the second volume of his great *Life* has been so long in the writing that he can still take account of this new corpus of verse from the sage of Highgate's latter years, hitherto supposed to have been philosophically fertile but poetically sterile. In the Somerset village of Nether Stowey, the tiny cottage where the author of *Kubla Khan* was interrupted by the "person on business from Porlock" (and the poem thereby marred) is open to the public. There the find will doubtless boost hopes of creating a permanent study centre for Coleridge, perhaps in one of several other larger houses in the village which have close associations with the poet. Reggie Watters, a learned antiquarian bookseller there, would, I am sure, like to hear from any wealthy individual or organisation interested in supporting such a scheme (Coleridge Books, 11 Castle Street, Nether Stowey, Somerset TA5 1LN).

DANIEL JOHNSON

Apart from his imperishable status as the most wayward and personable of the Lake poets, my own special interest in Coleridge lies in his role as perhaps the greatest mediator of German literature to the English-speaking world. He was one of the first translators and admirers of Goethe, Schiller and the German romantics and, until Carlyle took over in the 1820s, by far the most distinguished. His own voluminous metaphysical, ethical and critical essays were often inspired by German thinkers. It says much for Coleridge that he, like Germaine de Staël in France, sensed the importance of this prodigious cultural awakening of a nation even as its landscape was laid waste by the Napoleonic wars.

Those who want to follow the absorbing story of the reception of German thought in Britain during the 19th century — which embraces not only Coleridge and Carlyle but George Eliot, Matthew Arnold and several other major writers — should turn to *The German Idea* by Rosemary Ashton. This minor classic of literary scholarship has recently been reissued in paperback by a small publisher called Nicholas Jacobs (Libris, 10 Burghley Road, London NW5 1UE).

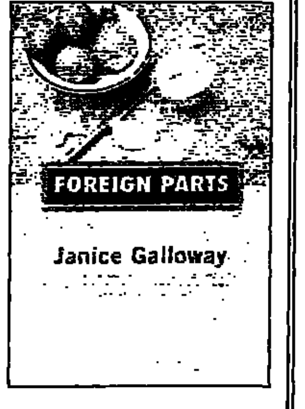
Libris specialises in translations of German classics: one recent title is *The Treasure Chest* by Johann Peter Hebel, a delightful collection of stories and curiosities by a contemporary of Coleridge. Hebel wrote poems in the Alemannic dialect of south-west Germany: his nearest equivalent in English might be Robert Burns. As it happens, Penguin has just published the same elegant translation by John Hibberd in paperback at £6.99, but the beautiful Libris hardback at £17.95 is worth the extra outlay. Coleridge would certainly have approved of Nicholas Jacobs, but perhaps it is just as well that they lived two centuries apart — otherwise Coleridge might have devoted himself entirely to German literature and written no more verse at all.

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Boyle: a wonderfully absurd satire

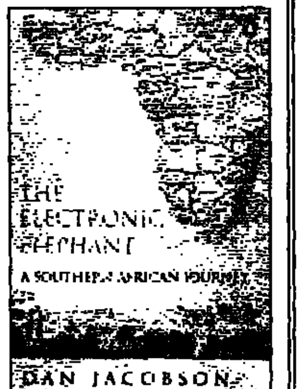
■ **THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE**
By T. Coraghessan Boyle
Granta, £6.99

It is 1907 and America is in the grip of its first health fad, "biologic living", the brain child of Dr John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the cornflake and passionate advocate of vegetarianism, enemas and sexual abstention. Everyone at his exclusive sanitarium worships him — except Will Lightbody, a reluctant patient dragged there by his health-obsessed wife. But the great Kellogg does not tolerate unbelievers and will stop at nothing to protect his power. A wonderfully absurd satire, now an Alan Parker film.



■ **FOREIGN PARTS**
By Janice Galloway
Vintage, £5.99

Cassie and Rona go on holiday. Rona's the practical one, umbilically joined to the travelling kettle. Cassie's the dreamer, identifying along the route with medieval cathedral builders and prisoners in the Bastille. Galloway's writing carries a wonderful gust of Scottish frankness, here focused on the joys and irritations of travel and female friendship. Occasional flat patches are outweighed by memorably brilliant descriptive details and a final blast against relationships with men.



■ **THE ELECTRONIC ELEPHANT**
By Dan Jacobson
Penguin, £6.99

The writer and literary critic Jacobson returns to Kimberley, the South African diamond-mining town of his childhood, and then takes the famous "road to the north" to the Zambezi and the borders of Zaire. He brings his academic's eye to the nature of colonial identity and, in a witty chapter on David Livingstone, examines the trenchant bigotry of Scotland's most celebrated missionary. Erudite and vividly descriptive, this is a quietly compelling read.

● *Nicki Household, Alison Burns, Lucy Lethbridge*

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Our noblest cross to bear

■ I OWE MY LIFE...
Bloomsbury, £15.99

IT WAS an eye-witness account of slaughter that led to its founding: more than a century later, it is the eye-witness accounts of what the Red Cross has done amid battle and revolution, in famine, floods, hurricanes and disasters and in salvaging humanity from the charnel house of Belsen that testify to its achievement in relieving suffering around the globe.

Some of these snapshots have now been gathered in a book to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross. They make compelling reading: and in an age when humanitarian organisations are jostling for headlines, they are vital evidence that the Red Cross, which has long agonised over the need for discretion when dealing with dictators or bargaining with prison-camp commandants, is still the world's most effective humanitarian agency — even if others hog the limelight and, increasingly, the cash.

Henri Dunant founded the society that was to become the International Committee of the Red Cross after witnessing the terrors of the dying soldiers at the Battle of Solferino in 1859. Though the Romans had hospitals in every fort, the plight of the common soldier was largely ignored until the last century. One Napoleonic surgeon wrote that during the siege of Danzig in 1807 there were 1,600 wounded and 2,000 sick "with not a straw mattress nor a basin nor a nurse between them".

The First World War was the greatest test for the newly founded Red Cross societies. Percy Douglas, rejected by the army in 1915, worked with the Voluntary Aid Detachments running an ambulance train for three years, taking the wounded "home to Blighty". Freya Stark, the famous traveller, served as a VAD nurse on the Italian front. Their descriptions, and those of the volunteers in the Second World War, show how many owed their lives to the Red Cross. But "peace" also has its horrors: the 1953 East Coast floods, Aberfan and Lockerbie at home, the Hungarian uprising, Zeebrugge, Bosnia and Sudan abroad. The Red Cross was there first, with emergency supplies, tea, humour and comfort.

Red Cross relief in Ethiopia

Contributors include Jeffrey Archer, Nigel Havers, Mary Soames, Viscount Tonypandy and Shirley Williams. Their words say much; dozens of archive photographs say more. The book's clear purpose is to raise the Red Cross profile and reverse the downward number of volunteers. It should do both.

MICHAEL BINYON

Peter Millar meets Frederick Forsyth, king of the thriller writers

Of sheep and pen

As Frederick Forsyth sips thin draughts of smoke down the elegant stem of his long, black cigarette holder, there is an unmistakable resemblance between the best-selling master of the modern thriller and the original dean of the genre: Ian Fleming, as immortalised by Cecil Beaton on a billion dust jackets.

The resemblance, of course, is only flash photography-deep. What few people know about FF (as even he refers to himself) is that he spends most of his time nowadays breeding sheep in Hertfordshire: "We have three flocks, altogether 500 ewes and 20 rams. This is the start of the lambing season."

In the genteel surroundings of London's Montcalm hotel, delivered by chauffeur-driven Jaguar, Forsyth looks the perfect picture of the polished gentleman scribbler: posing reflectively in the colonade, just enough cuff protruding from the sleeve of his gold-buttoned navy blazer. At home on the farm, however, Forsyth drives a modest Rover, a far cry from the days when he drove his white 1962 Silver Shadow Rolls Royce through the Northern Irish border to the bemusement of a group of Scottish squaddies.

Forsyth's self-imposed Irish tax exile — an escape from the punitive rates with which the last Labour government forced British stars abroad — created so much publicity at the time that many of his fans assume he still lives there. In fact, he returned from County Wicklow in 1980 after five of the most unproductive years of his life. Engagingly, he still admits to "hating" writing: "I do it to make a living." He was never tempted to produce an Irish book simply because, he says, too many others had already mined the IRA vein.

Forsyth's own reading time is largely taken up with non-fiction, mostly biographies, much of which provides incidental research material for a future book. But he clearly delves deeply into the competition in his own genre, restraining himself from detailed comment on friends such as "Jeffrey and Tom" (Archer and Clancy) but rubbishing some newcomers such as Alan Folsom (*The Day After Tomorrow*): "Once I saw that the killer had cut his own legs off at the knee so as to disguise his height, and then still performed athletics, I just couldn't read any more." He is equally scathing about the current trend for resurrecting Nazis as villains in a world which is still rich in real baddies.

The end of Forsyth's most recent book, *The Fist of God*, now in paperback (Corgi, £5.99), includes a postscript piece of punditry on the folly of politicians making short-term profits out of selling Saddam Hussein and his ilk high-tech weaponry which they are eventually forced to destroy at much greater cost. "I wrestled with the idea — novelists shouldn't preach — but in the end decided to go with it."

It was not a mistake. Novelists can knock on doors politicians seldom care to open. And with his sales figures, the one thing Forsyth is not doing is preaching in the wilderness.

MICHAEL POWELL

Frederick Forsyth says he hates writing: "I do it for a living"

CHILDREN UNDER 11

Whose bedtime is it anyway?

THE last thing I need in my children's bedtime stories is the kind of knowing archness that is intended to appeal mainly to adults. As if parents did not have loads of books of their own to laugh at without sticking their jokes into children's books, too. Bedtime explanations by tired working parents are often lame and unconvincing, leaving everyone feeling shortchanged. Reading Siobhan Dodds' **Grandad Pot** (Walker Books, £3.99) to my three-year-old, I realised that while the story (a little girl hoodwinks her grandad into thinking she is bringing three friends rather than three stuffed toys for tea) delighted me, my daughter was completely baffled.

Susan Meddaugh gets it right in **Martha Speaks** (Macmillan, £3.99). It is not enough for Martha the dog to learn to talk by eating alphabet soup: she must learn what to say and when. This message is conveyed lightly yet clearly and needed no more bedtime explanations from me.

WE HAVE found over the years that baby board-books are good for levelling up the washing machine but otherwise it is hard to squeeze much entertainment from them. Suzy-Jane Tanner has improved greatly on this with four handbag-sized "chunkies" in soft colours. There are enough busy elephants on each page to provide lots of material for conversation. **Seaside Numbers**, **Teatime Shapes**, **Washday Colours** and **Everyday Noises** are £1.99 each from Hutchinson.

Jacqueline Wilson is another author who is funny without being arch. Beginner readers should look out for **The Dinosaur's Packed Lunch** (Doubleday, £8.99) and **Cliffhanger** (Yearling, £2.99), the latter needing slightly more reading ability; and for fluent readers, **The Bed and Breakfast Star** (Yearling, £2.99). These titles explore the problems of the loneliness of a motherless girl, the agonies of a non-sporty boy with a bullying dad, and the gloomy world of a B & B hotel for homeless families. Achingly politically correct? Maybe, but Wilson carries it off with wit and wisdom.

Theresa Tomlinson shows similar respect for her young readers in her historical melodrama, **The Cellar Lad** (Julia MacRae, £9.99). It follows 11-year-old Ben's first days working at a Sheffield steelworks in 1842 against the background of the Chartist marches. Modern children, locked in their ghetto of play, will respond to the idea of an 11-year-old taking his place alongside grown men and assuming total responsibility for an orphaned toddler.

ANTHONY HOROWITZ follows in Roald Dahl's slimy footsteps and **Granny** (Walker Books, £3.99) is bound to be hugely popular. It is nastily funny and blatantly panders to children's natural distaste for old people, with gruesome descriptions of the evil Granny and her cronies. "Ooh, but children *love* it," I can hear Horowitz fans drooling. Does that make it a good book?

The widely praised **Bully** by David Hughes (Walker Books, £4.99) will now reach a bigger audience in paperback and, by buying it, parents will feel they are tackling bullying; in truth they are getting a rather horrible book whose anti-bullying message is obscured by the sing-song storyline and nightmare nastiness of the leering animal faces in Hughes's drawings. I cannot explain those away at bedtime.

SARAH JOHNSON

Never been had so good

■ POOR SOULS
By Joseph Connolly
Faber, £8.99

JOSEPH Connolly's first novel picks over the debris of Mrs Thatcher's social revolution. In a single ghastly week in 1985, a cast of failures and bores watch their horrible lives go horribly wrong.

Barry is an editor in publishing who once backed "The Big One" that wasn't. His marriage to dreary, resentful Susan is in even worse shape than his career. Gavin is an affluent fool, all wine-thermometers and bonhomie, married to Moira, who loves Sauternes and hates Gavin. George is a womanising man in marketing, whose Oxford Street version of Jermyn Street style promises more than George can deliver. Hilary, single mother of the appalling Nicholas, preserves some of the less endearing values of the 1960s. Annie, for some reason, loves Barry.

Poor Souls reads like Iris Murdoch rewritten by Julie Burchill. Connolly has a sharp eye for the trappings of greed and aspiration, the precise cost of upward mobility, the real distance from Camden Town to Hampstead. This is a book that bristles with brand names. But what starts out as a dissection of mediocrity soon becomes a chronicle of madness. As drunkenness gives way to dementia, adultery to assault, the writing stays coldly proficient. Connolly has a seductive line in sex and a sickening line in violence, and a very unpleasant line in mixing up the two.

There are some good jokes, but when comedy gets this black, it can start to look putrid and smell. The 1980s were in many ways a thoroughly nasty decade. Some of the casualities of its casino economics were far from innocent. Connolly has given them the memorial they deserve.

IAN BRUNSKILL

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£14.99	1	3
2	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Heinemann)*	£10	2	2
3	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS **David Attenborough** *(BBC)*	£17.99	2	4
4	GEOFF HAMILTON'S COTTAGE GARDENS **Geoff Hamilton** *(BBC)*	£18.99	8	3
5	THE FINAL CUT **Michael Dobbs** *(HarperCollins)*	£14.99	0	1
6	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Cape)*	£16.99	0	1
7	THE CRUSADES **Terry Jones** *(BBC)*	£17.99	4	3
8	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	5	14
9	ANTHROPOLOGIST ON MARS **Oliver Sacks** *(Picador)*	£15.99	0	1
10	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£20	6	6

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	FIST OF GOD **Frederick Forsyth** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	0	1
2	INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE **Anne Rice** *(Warner)*	£4.99	2	4
3	AN IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCE **Mary Wesley** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	1	4
4	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	3	14
5	THE VAMPIRE LESTAT **Anne Rice** *(Futura)*	£5.99	0	1
6	RHODES AROUND BRITAIN **Gary Rhodes** *(BBC)*	£12.99	0	1
7	THE FERMATA **Nicholson Baker** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	11	4
8	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	10	25
9	OTHER PEOPLE'S MARRIAGES **Rosie Thomas** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	4	4
10	THE BUCCANEERS **Edith Wharton** *(Fourth Estate)*	£4.99	0	1
11	DECIDER **Dick Francis** *(Pan)*	£4.99	6	6
12	PULP FICTION **Quentin Tarantino** *(Faber)*	£7.99	0	1
13	OLD MONEY **Elizabeth Palmer** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	0	1
14	BRAVO TWO ZERO **Andy McNab** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	0	18
15	SLOW WALTZ IN CEDAR BEND **Robert James Waller** *(Mandarin)*	£4.99	14	2
16	PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA **Roddy Doyle** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	0	30
17	STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION: BALANCE OF POWER **Daffyd Ab Hugh** *(Pocket Books)*	£4.50	0	1
18	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED **Anne Rice** *(Warner)*	£5.99	0	1
19	THE POWER **Colin Forbes** *(Pan)*	£4.99	9	4
20	LIVING DANGEROUSLY **Katie Fforde** *(Penguin)*	£4.99	0	1

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Dillons Direct Tel: 0345 125 704 (local rate) The Bookstore To Your Door

Monkey see, monkey do

■ JENNIE
By Douglas Preston
Andre Deutsch, £14.99

HUMAN beings have ever consoled themselves for the absurdity of their existence with the ego-boosting thought that they are the highest form of creation. What a piece of work is a man: we alone have consciousness, language, imagination.

Jennie, the delightful heroine of Douglas Preston's novel, has all these things, too. But she is not human, she is a chimpanzee. Furthermore, she has not been anthropomorphised. Everything she does, according to the author, is based on behavioural experiments or the experience of people who have raised chimpanzees at home.

An American anthropologist working in the Cameroon takes a newborn chimpanzee home to Massachusetts, where she quickly becomes the third child in the family, eating at the table, learning to use the lavatory, playing games and watching television. When she is two, a primate researcher teaches her American sign language. Soon, she can ask for things, apologise, swear, lie, and "sign" her own name when she sees herself in the mirror. Most poignantly, when asked to sort pictures of people and animals into human and non-human, she places chimpanzees (but no other animals) among the humans.

Man's nearest relations

Written in the form of "interviews" with the five or six people who knew Jennie best, this is no soppy animal story but an intriguing exploration of the dividing line between man and his closest relative. If chimpanzees can really understand and communicate as well as Jennie, we are much less superior than we think. But the problem with mixing fiction and astonishing fact is that you do not know how much to believe.

However, the human characters are credible and interesting — the "father" whose obsession with Jennie makes him lose all objectivity, the son who accuses his parents of giving the chimpanzee bourgeois suburban values, the local cleric who tries to bring her to Jesus. These people are all deeply affected by Jennie. But, sadly, nobody has considered what will happen when she reaches puberty and can no longer be controlled in a family environment.

When that time comes, she has, as in *Pygmalion*, changed too much to be able to go back to what she was before. Full of humour and irony, this story is all the more moving for not milking the sentiment.

NICKI HOUSEHOLD

White knuckle sandwich

■ INVOLVED
By Kate O'Riordan
Flamingo, £5.99

TO EAMON O'Neill, the emotionally disconnected villain of this troubling first novel, "there are no innocents". A belief in collective wickedness allows Eamon to be a Belfast hard man: in the festering mean streets that are his kingdom, dark with gunmen, informers and hopeless, glue-sniffing adolescents, he decides who is to be kneecapped, scared witless or murdered.

Kate O'Riordan brings Eamon chillingly to life in the opening pages of *Involved*. He slaughters a puppy which he has chummily fondled only moments before; he has shaming, prudish sex with a local prostitute; he gets bossed about by his mother, a domestic tyrant who knows a good way to get bloodstains out of her son's clothing.

O'Riordan captures the shabby, desperate unease of Belfast with bleak conviction. Not entirely successfully, she then introduces a heroine who seems to have wandered in from a Maeve Binchy romance. Kitty Fitzgerald is a doctor's daughter from County Cork. She is in love in a weak-at-the-knees sort of way with Danny, Eamon's younger brother, who is apprenticed to a Dublin solicitor. Danny and Kitty make love, bicker and, annoyingly, slow down the pace.

Fortunately, the story soon moves out of mushy mode. Kitty's well-to-do family reveals bitter secrets: her shallow, over-lipsticked mother is a drunk who hates her only daughter and, after her husband's death, refuses to let Kitty come home. The girl becomes ever more obsessively dependent on Danny, which brings her into conflict with the murderous claims of his family in Belfast. This puts a mark on her life, so harrowing in its harsh logic, that it turns your knuckles white.

As well as Eamon there are other hauntingly well drawn characters: Monica, a jaunty ruin of a woman, keeping herself just this side of death on booze and Valium; the maimed boy who is one of Eamon's victims; Kitty's mother, a study of quiet, ladylike derangement. O'Riordan's powerful storytelling icily conveys the horrible ordinariness of evil.

PENNY PERRICK

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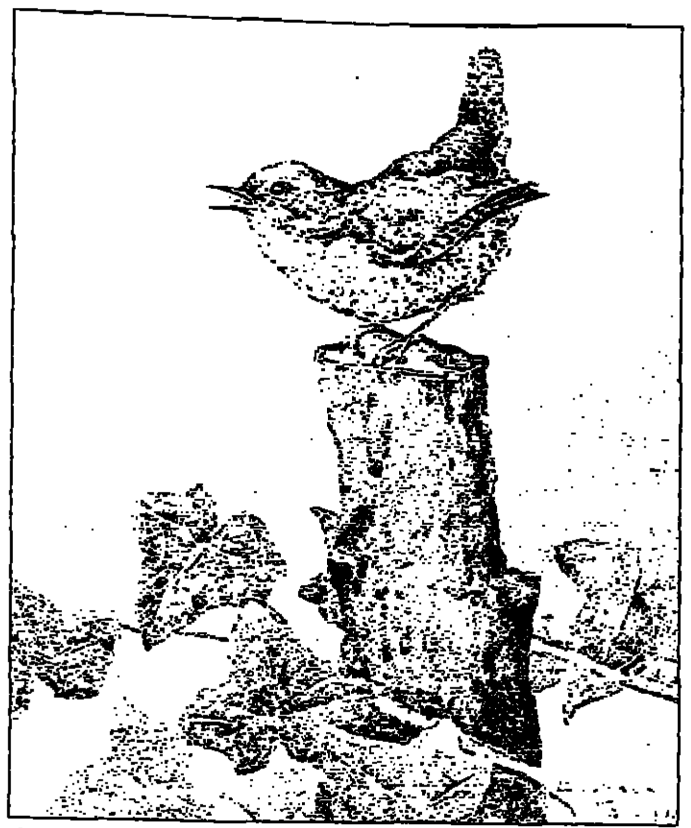

Wrens are ahead of the field when it comes to marking territory

AT THIS time of the year, in every wood and garden, new maps are being drawn. Chaffinches are staking out their territories around a fruit tree to nest in, blackbirds doing the same round a thick hedge, great tits round a suitable hole or nesting-box. Song thrushes, robins and wrens had already marked out their territories during the winter.

None of these species have the least interest in any of the other species. For example, blackbirds want only to keep other blackbirds out of their territories, great tits to keep out other great tits. So all these territories are superimposed on each other. An avian estate agent would have a terrible time making a plan of your garden and those around it. There might be nine or ten different boundaries to be drawn in different coloured inks, all criss-crossing each other at innumerable points. But as long as the inhabitants can keep out rivals of the same species, they all live happily together on the same plot.

How clear and firm these territorial boundaries are is not so easy to say. When David Lack wrote his marvellous book *The Life of the Robin* in the late 1930s, he drew precise maps of a set of adjacent robin territories. He had colour-ringed the robins and noted the points where they challenged or fought each other, and he drew boundaries linking up those points.

Now it would generally be considered that the robins and other territorial birds have a much looser idea of how much land they consider to be theirs, and one that changes as the spring goes on. What remains constant, however, is the way most species of small birds proclaim their ownership — which is by their song.

Birdsong may have other uses, especially that of attracting a mate, but its main function is to warn off other birds. The millions of male wrens that have carved up Britain according to their needs, and are now going higher into the trees to sing their loud and brilliant song, are really shouting "Keep out!" to other wrens.

AN EXPERIMENT carried out some years ago with great tits in an Oxfordshire wood demonstrated beautifully this use of song. Some great tits were trapped and removed from their territories. The result was that others from rather poorer breeding areas — less food, more cats — moved in.

Then some more great tits were removed, but now loudspeakers giving forth the song of the great tit were set up in their territories. This time no great tits tried to take over the vacant lots.

Birds do battle on the boundaries, though usually without much actual fighting. You often see two robins facing each other in adjacent hawthorn trees on a roadside, both singing in a shrill, strained way, with their bodies drawn up to show the maximum amount of red breast to their antagonist. The coloured feathers add to the impact of the song.

Song thrushes sometimes have really vigorous song battles in a hedge. They bawl at each other with a mixture of rich and scratchy notes, then one flies at the other. They shift position and then start singing again.

Why exactly birds need territories is unresolved, but it seems clear that the males want to prevent other males from impregnating their mate, and that the pair want some kind of guaranteed food supply for their nestlings.

Meanwhile, the dawn chorus of song is just beginning, and will swell over the next two or three months. Why do birds sing so much at dawn? The answer here seems to be that it is still too dark to find food, but not too dark to do a bit of territory-proclaiming. Birds do not want to waste time.

But pity the poor avian estate agent when we get to April. Then the woods will be flooded with summer visitors — willow warblers, chiffchaffs, blackcaps, garden warblers — all eager to impose their territorial maps on top of all the others. It will be chaos for the surveyor. But the birds themselves will not notice that there is any problem at all.

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — watch for rooks gathering nest material. Twitchers — lesser scaup at Barton-on-Humber, Humberside; Ross's gull at Seaforth Nature Reserve, Merseyside. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*
- *Robin Jacques is away.*

Star performance by the Branagh of the stables

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

I walked from the house to the stable to give the horses their afternoon feed unprepared for the horrific sight that met my eyes. Star, our oldest and bravest carthorse, was lying on the ground, legs askew, head still held high by his halter, his neck twisted into an unnatural position. I thought he was dead.

Thankfully he was still breathing, but had closed his eyes through exhaustion: his neck was dripping in sweat, brought on no doubt by the realisation of his predicament, which could easily have been terminal. With much hauling on ropes and verbal encouragement, we managed to raise him until he was sitting up like a dog. Then, to prevent him rolling back again — and to save us the effort of having to raise his not-quite-dead weight from horizontal to vertical — we stuck a bale of hay under his neck.

Then I grew suspicious. The instant the strong scent of the hay hit his nostrils, a transformation took place. His eyes opened wide, his neck which had hung limply was suddenly galvanized, and his mouth, which looked as though it would never open again, snatched a mouthful of the hay as if it were the last bite of forage in the world. The vet arrived shortly after the horse had finally regained all his four feet, and declared Star to be sound in wind and limb.

It was then that unworthy thoughts crossed my mind. You see, we have a new arrival in the stable. A fine young Suffolk gelding, Taffy, recently broken to harness and ready and eager to start work, has joined our little army of carthorses. Naturally, as a newcomer, he has been getting all the attention: gazed upon admiringly by all who come to visit the farm.

It used to be Star of whom everyone made a fuss. Being the senior horse with a distinguished career, including a picturesque history of having pulled a horse-tram in Aberdeen in his youth, his fame has spread far and wide. He occupies the stall nearest to the stable door and so is usually the first to be greeted with cries of "Ooh, is this Star? Ah, what a lovely boy". But now things are different. "Where's the new one?" they all ask. "Ah, Taffy, what a lovely boy *you* are."

When I saw Star sprawled across the floor I thought he might have had some kind of heart attack, colic or failed leg-joint. I now suspect him of a serious attack of upstaging. I do not think he ever intended that he should end up in such a life-threatening muddle; it was a sort of prank that got out of hand.

If all this strikes you as a hard-hearted analysis by a cynic who came close to losing a beloved cart-horse, let me remind you that he has done it before.

Last year, when I had made the decision that because of his advancing years he should retire, he staged the most magnificent death scene in modern theatrical history. This horse could teach Branagh a thing or two about the techniques of expiring to maximum effect.

He lay in the deep litter in the yard, cast and unable to rise, and sensing that the audience was not large enough to witness his performance of a lifetime, he waited until my wife had summoned the fire brigade and its lifting gear. Then he got up and cantered lightly into the stable for breakfast.

Now, he senses that Taffy may be undermining his position of authority: new blood forcing old into retirement. What he does not understand, and what I must make some efforts to make clear to him, is that fun though it is to have a young horse, there is more pleasure in working with an old one. Taffy, just four years old and ready for light duties, is a kindly chap, willing and able. He is afraid of very little and lacks nothing other than experience, which he will gather over the next 12 months.

But being adolescent, Taffy can be tiring. All young horses are the same. At feeding time, he has only to hear the clank of the buckets and he is pawing the ground with his front hooves, threatening that if he is not the first to be fed he will paw the house down. At the end of the day, when he knows it is time to be turned into the yard, he will not wait, unlike the others, until his chain is unclipped; instead, he will prance on the spot in excitement, flinging his head about till the rattling can be heard in the next village. When he is finally released, he will trot to the yard as if every second were vital. It's all very wearying.

Young Taffy should grow out of this soon and the stable will become a quieter place. But, as I have been saying to old Star, how are the kids ever going to learn any manners if Grandad up the other end keeps putting on a show-stopping display of temperament every time he feels he is being ignored?

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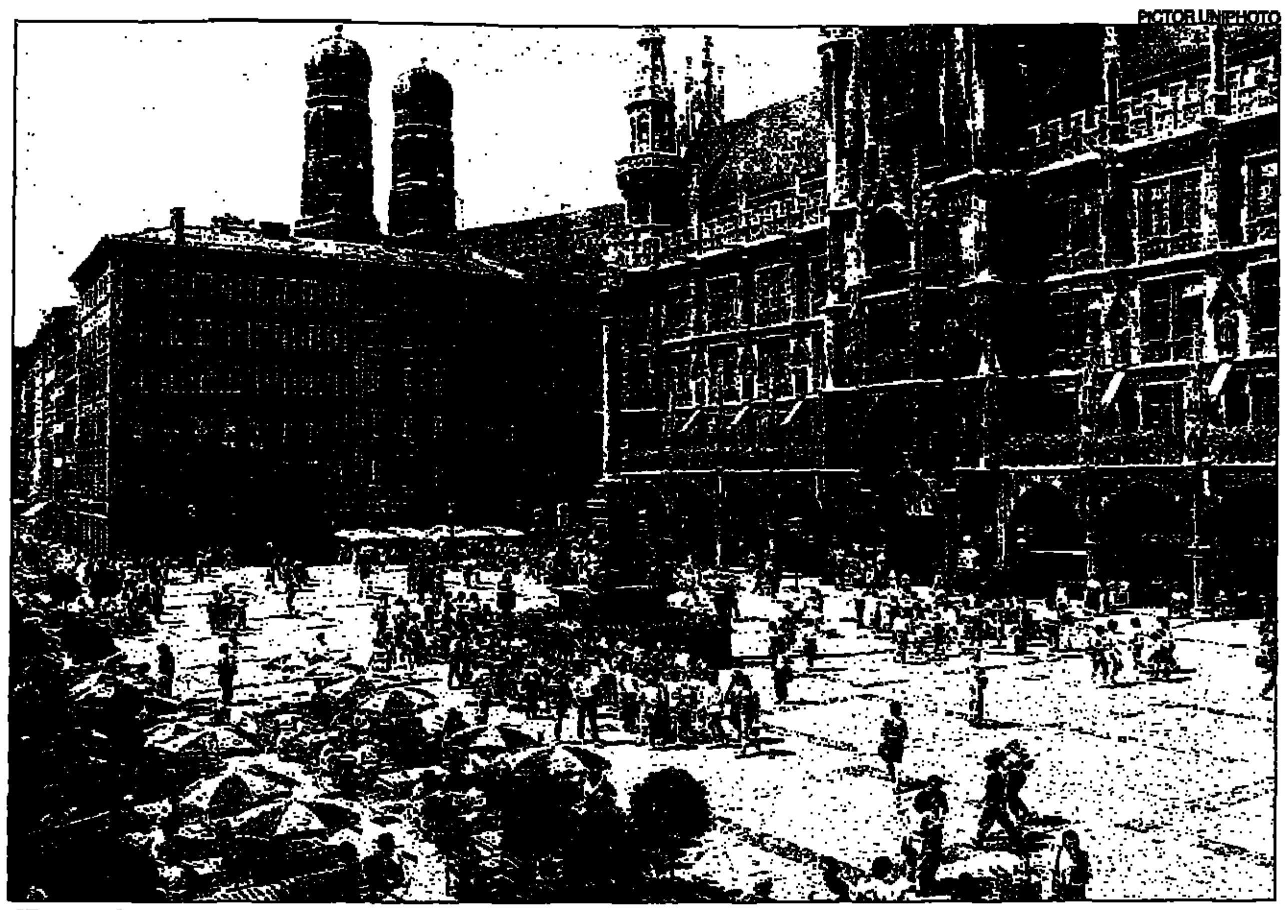
GERMANY: **Stewart Tendler** marvels at the contradictions and riches of Munich, the Bavarian capital


PICTOR UNIPHOTO

The Marienplatz in the heart of Munich, with the twin domes of the 16th-century Frauenkirche in the background

City with oompah

Clad in kneebreeches and a short loden jacket, with a plume of boar's bristles set in his green hat, the old man tottered along the road. No one paid him any notice: though home to high-tech companies such as BMW, Munich is one of the few Western cities where inhabitants dress in traditional costume, the *Trachten*.

Drink a glass of blond beer and nibble a sausage in the Viktualienmarkt, the city's open-air food market, and spot how many men wear lederhosen. Even the women queueing at the butchers for the local delicacy of white sausage, or at the stall selling 20 different types of potato, sport their versions of the *Trachten*.

The citizens of Germany's third largest city, and one of its great tourist centres, are inured to its contradictions and excesses. Here is a city of oompah and piety, Mass and Brau. The carillons of the city's old churches call the faithful to Mass day and night, yet this is the same city which, within a few years after the First World War, was first the capital of an extreme left-wing republic, and then the launch pad for Hitler's first and failed *putsch*.

Famed for the Oktoberfest, just one event in a perennial and enthusiastic celebration of local beer, Munich offers the ultimate tourist souvenir in the shape of a 5ft beer mug.

For all the extravagance, this is also an intimate, warm city whose architecture and atmosphere at the heart of a Catholic region sometimes merits comparison with Rome. Many of the buildings are painted in the same ochres and washes. The great baroque church of Theatinerkirche, its cinnamon-orange blending into yellow, would not be out of place on a piazza half a continent further south.

Much of Germany is still spurned by British tourists. They miss a city offering an ideal springboard for the Alps, or a short holiday break. It also hosts one of the great European opera houses, two famous art galleries and the largest technology museum in Europe with ten miles of galleries and a full-size working model of a coal mine.

Like Rome, the city repays the strolling tourist handsomely. Step out on to the cobbled square of the Marienplatz under the dark gaze of the neo-Gothic Neues Rathaus in the centre of the city and whichever way you turn Munich is ready to please.

To the west, the twin onion-topped towers of the Frauenkirche dominate the skyline. Finished in the 16th century, the church holds 20,000 and includes the magnificent tomb of the Holy Roman Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian.

Walk north from the Marienplatz into the courtyard of the Alter Hof, a fortified medieval home once used by dukes, and within minutes a vista of Bavarian grandeur unfolds.

In the distance, the 900 acres of the Englischer Garten beckon. Said to be the biggest city park in Europe, the garden provides a green counterpoint to the city. Closer to the centre, the mannered paths and lawns of the Hofgarten, a former royal garden, give sanctuary from the bustle.

Turn south from the Marienplatz and Sendlingerstrasse yields the Asamkirche, a rococo extravaganza. A step east and the spiral stairs of the tower to the Altes Rathaus, built in 1474, reveal a charming toy museum.

Wander further on the efficient public transport network to the Schloss Nymphenburg. A baroque palace started in the 17th century, it floats on the edge of ornamental water gardens and houses Ludwig I's Gallery of Beauties, a portrait collection of 13 women said to epitomise 19th-century beauty.

Munich will feed the stomach as well as the soul. Many of the restaurants are run by the breweries and reasonably priced, but be prepared for generous portions: an order for less than a litre of beer will earn scorn. The Altes Hackerhaus is a comfortable restaurant, with walls decorated by momentoes and photographs. The Augustinerbrau has a large dining room where Müencheners take a late lunch as shafts of sunlight pierce the shadows, and the Weinstadl is a former medieval town house with an arcaded courtyard.

All are demure compared with the sweaty, noisy cavern of the Hofbrauhaus, where two jazz bands add to the din. Groups of ruddy-faced drinkers sway along the tables and roar over enormous mugs of beer and baskets of pretzels.

Outside in the Marienplatz each night another ritual is played out. As crowds stare silently upwards like astronomers waiting for an eclipse, the glockenspiel set in the Neue Rathaus ends its evening show with Brahms's lullaby.

Getting there

☐ The author went to Munich as a guest of DER Travel Service, 18 Conduit Street, London W1 9TD (0171-290 1111), which specialises in German travel. He stayed at the Hotel Rafael (0049 89 290980), a new, luxury hotel in the Neuturmstrasse, near the Marienplatz in the city centre.

☐ DER offers a three-night city break, flying Lufthansa and including B&B accommodation at a choice of six hotels, from £282 per person (until the end of March). It also offers a Munich Sampler, with return flight, three nights' accommodation, city tour, a visit to Bavaria Film Studio and two-day public transport ticket. Prices from £337 per person (until the end of March).

☐ Oktoberfest deals are available through DER from £299, including flights and three nights' B&B (first departure September 15.)

☐ The German National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, London W1 7PE, (0891 600 100, calls charged at premium rate) can provide city guides and literature.

TRAVEL TIPS

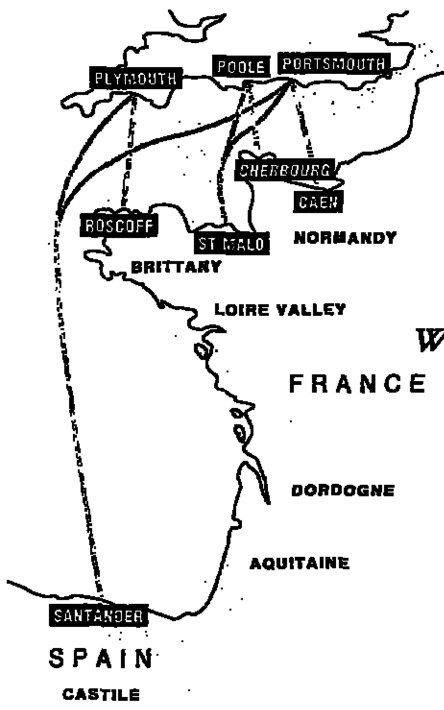
☐ Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) offers motor-cruising holidays through the Mecklenburg lake district in northeast Germany. Available March to October. From £399-£489 per person for seven nights (based on group of six), including return flights from Heathrow or regional airports to Hamburg, transfers, and motor-cruiser rental.

☐ Moswin Tours also offers self-catering holidays on a Bavarian farm, including riding, walking, children's play area and use of the nearby Solymar leisure park. Between April and the end of November, the cost is £772 for a family of four for seven nights, including accommodation and return Ramsgate/Dunkirk ferry for car and passengers.

☐ The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (0171-928 6000) has two departures from Venice to London via Vienna, Prague, Frankfurt and Paris on June 14 and August 30. Price per person from £815 to £1,035 depending on section travelled.

☐ Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2300) has six escorted historical tours following Napoleon's battles across Europe. These include a five-day tour starting in Frankfurt on June 2, with a visit to the tomb of Henri de la Tour d'Auvergne at Oberhausen (from £875); and a nine-day tour from Munich on August 31, following the campaigns of 1805 and 1809 (from £1,575). Prices include flights, accommodation, excursions, specified meals.

CHRISTINE WHEELER



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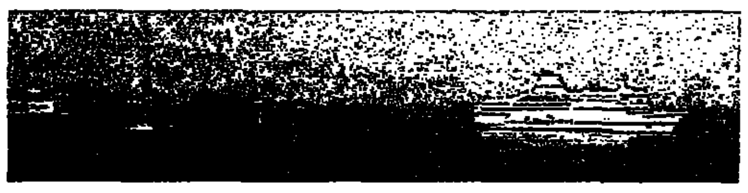

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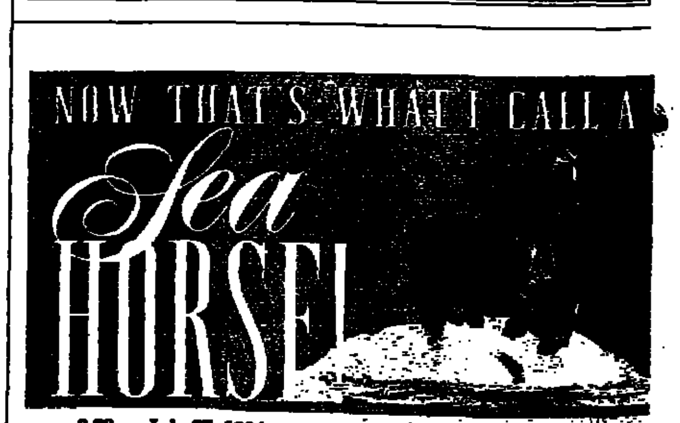
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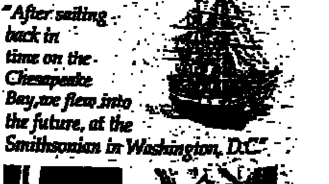
9.30am July 27, 1994.
Chincoteague Island, Virginia.

I came up for air in the Atlantic. Just then a horse swam by, closely followed by a cowboy.

Yesterday it was crab racing. Today I'm taking part in a rather damp wild west round up on the quaint island of Chincoteague. I haven't had this much excitement since I rode that steam train through a dizzy gap in the Maryland mountains.

And tomorrow it's inland Virginia. There, legend has it that if a woman fancies you, she'll let you know by throwing her stocking over your head. I hope they've all had as much lasso practice as I have!



"After sailing back in time on the Chesapeake Bay, we flew into the future, at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C."

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هكذا من الاصل

INDIA: **Michael Evans**, on a cricket-cum-sightseeing tour, is bowled over by the country's contrasts

Hot games and curry for lunch

The best way to see India is with a cricket bat in your hand-luggage. The sight of a bat places you on a different level from all the other tourists and back-packers who go to India for their holidays or for spiritual regeneration.

For the Indians, cricket is a religion. Anyone who can flick a wrist with a ball or twirl a bat practises all year round in parks or on dusty sidestreets, trying to emulate their cricketing heroes.

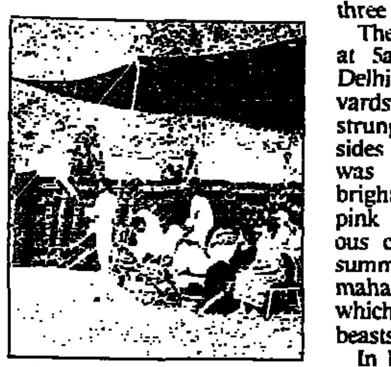
I arrived in Delhi shortly after Christmas for a three-week cricket tour, with a Fleet Street XI of varied abilities.

Hitting Delhi at three o'clock in the morning with a party of 20 people and 35 pieces of luggage proved an ordeal. But the excitement of arriving in India for the first time overcame all logistic difficulties. The smells, the noise, the rush of coolies begging baksheesh for even touching your trolley, this was the India we had all read about.

The cricket provided an insight into a different world. Every match followed the same pattern. We started early, and at about 12 o'clock men in black jackets would place tables close to the boundary and cover them with white tablecloths and half a dozen large stainless-steel tureens. Soon there would be the smell of curry and chapattis cooking. With one side's innings completed, we would all troop over for a curry buffet — wonderful for the taste buds but less inviting for those suffering from Delhi belly.

No one goes to India, even dedicated cricketers, without visiting the Taj Mahal at Agra. Built by the Mogul ruler Shah Jahan for his second wife, Mumtaz Muhal, it took 22 years to complete and involved 20,000 engineers. Shah Jahan kept 900 concubines in the nearby Red Fort, but his wife was his real love. Our guide told us: "You know, a Muslim could have four wives. Actually, this is the same today, although it depends on patience and the pocket, isn't it?"

You need to see the Taj early in the morning, when mists envelop the mighty onion dome. The effect makes the marble monument seem almost fluffy; so delicate that it could lift into the air and float away. By midday, however, in the hot sun, it is solid and huge and totally dominating. Shah Jahan ruled that nothing was to be built behind the Taj so that it would remain an unrivalled memorial to his beloved second wife. That sensation of eternal space beyond the Taj survives to this day.


Fleet Street team in Delhi

After four cricket matches in Delhi, on pitches that were hard and unrelenting, we set off by train to Jaipur, the city painted pink every year in memory of a visit by Prince Albert in the 1870s. Getting on and off the train was like threading through a riot. The 35 pieces of luggage were carried, in one go, on the heads, shoulders and arms of only five coolies, all of whom had the same wiry frame as the rickshaw riders, whose muscled, stick-like legs bicycled up and down hills with comparative ease whether they were bearing one, two or three tourists.

The train arrived in Jaipur at 5am. The contrast with Delhi, with its wide boulevards and desperate poverty strung along so many roadsides like decaying washing, was startling. Jaipur has brightly coloured turbans, pink buildings and sumptuous countryside dotted with summer palaces of former maharajahs, and the cows, which are regarded as sacred beasts, seem better integrated.

In Delhi, there are an estimated 17,000 cows wandering around, mostly ignored by the inhabitants. In Jaipur, smaller and more contained within old city walls, the cows window-gaze, snuffle among the cabbages and fruit at the greengrocers and generally merge in with the throng of people. Morris Ambassador taxis, bicycles, rickshaws, camel-drawn carts, scooters and *Mad Max* buses — fearsome-looking, three-wheeled vehicles with huge, brightly painted bonnets, always overflowing with customers and belching black smoke.

In Jaipur and at our next three stops — Madras, Bangalore and Bombay — we were treated as honoured guests of Indian cricket-lovers. Sponsored by the Indian foreign ministry, which was so determined to ease our path through the country with the minimum of bureaucratic fuss that it delegated an ever-smiling official to accompany us, we soon became accustomed to the tradition of presenting us with gifts at the end of each match. Local dignitaries greeted us and talked of the shared love of cricket.

In most of the cities we visited we stayed at five-star hotels, the most romantic of which was the Jai Mahal in Jaipur, a former summer palace with luxurious gardens. But in Bombay, the home of Indian cricket, we stayed at the famous Cricket Club of India (CCI), an Art Deco-style private club which includes a Test match stadium. In the morning and early evening, the members, mostly of the older generation, go for their constitutional around the stadium and then sink into cane basket chairs in the outfield and order drinks: a world away from the streets around the corner where tens of thousands of Indians push and shove and sell, and where beggars appeal in vain for rupees.

Three weeks of cricket in India was tough, but it was not without its rewards. The final tally in matches was: played 13, won 8, drew 1, lost 4.

Elephants and their attendants wait patiently in the hot sun to greet tourists at the Amer Fort near Jaipur

Tour details

☐ The Fleet Street XI's cricket tour was sponsored by the Indian ministry of external affairs, which subsidised the Air India return flights. Internal flights were booked via Travelpack (01159 424442). Economy class flights with Air India, Heathrow-Delhi return, cost from £700, rising to £770 between July 1-August 31.

☐ The hotels — the Hyatt in Delhi, Jai Mahal in Jaipur, Residency in Madras and Oberoi in Bangalore — were booked individually. In most cases, the cost of a hotel room will be included in an overall package.

☐ Companies specialising in sporting tours include John Snow Travel (01293 543185), Mike Burton Sports Travel (01452 419666) and Gullivers Sports Travel (01684 293175). Packages include flights, accommodation, internal travel, and help with arranging sporting fixtures and social events. Cost depends on destination, group numbers, length of stay, accommodation and sight-seeing requirements. The most popular touring sports are cricket, rugby, hockey and golf. Tours to Britain for foreign clubs can be arranged.

☐ If fixtures are already in place, companies such as Abercrombie & Kent Travel (0171-730 9600), Hayes and Jarvis (0181-748 0088), and Cox & Kings (0171-873 5002), can arrange packages around them.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

ARGAND

(b) a diagram used for the graphical representation of a complex number, an eponym from the surname of Jean Robert Argand, a French mathematician (1768-1822). "In an Argand diagram, there are two perpendicular axes on one of which real numbers are represented and on the other pure imaginaries, thus providing a frame of reference for graphing complex numbers."

DECAUDATION

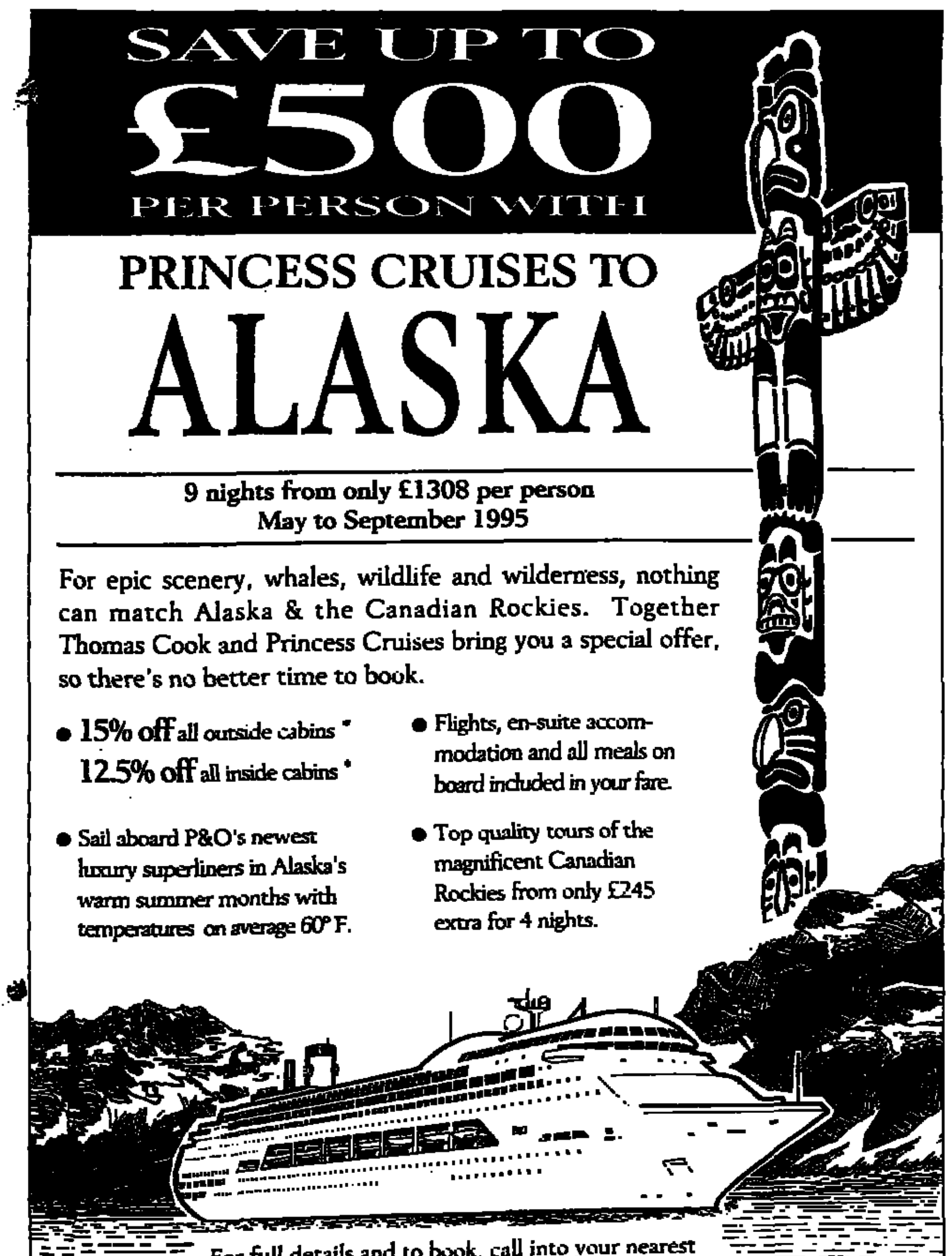
(c) Removal of the tail or "tails". From the Latin *de-* off, privative + *cauda* a tail. "The decaudation and blanching and unstiffening of the waiter are another phase of the transformation which has abolished the frock-coat and the silk hat and women's hair."

FORB

(c) A herbaceous plant of a kind other than grass: applied chiefly to any broad-leafed herbs growing naturally on grassland. From the Greek *phorbē* fodder, forage + *phorbein* to feed. "Forbs such as the clovers, filaree, dandelion, and cow parsley contribute in no small way to the hay and pasture crops."

ANGAREB

(b) A stretcher or light bedstead used by Arabs, and in Egypt and the Sudan. The native name. "Camels heavily laden with angarebs transversely placed and resting on the flank upon a huge box."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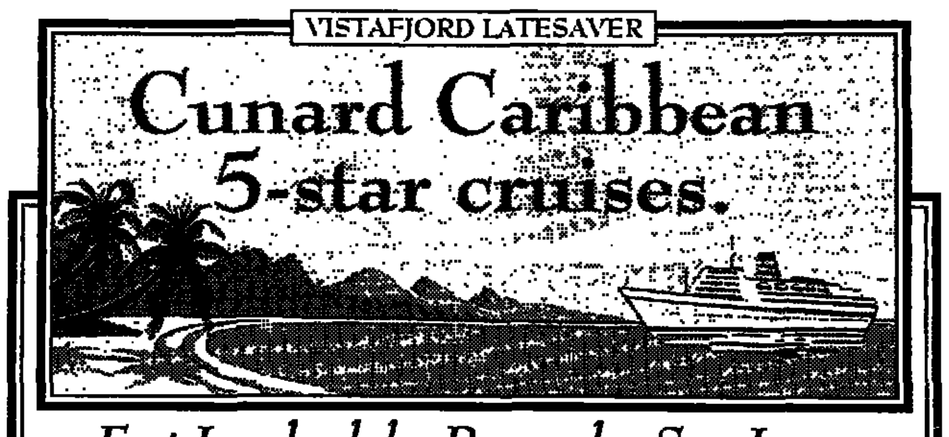
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FRANCE: Follow in the brushstrokes of Van Gogh and Picasso, and wonder at the beauty that inspired their work

Provence, a natural work of art

Provence is a painter's paradise. Even if you do not want to take your brushes, you can tour in the tracks of the world's most famous artists and see some stunning scenery at the same time. What brought the artists here? The quality of light, the sunflowers, lavender and sunshine — all the things that make holidays here so appealing.

"The future of modern art lies in the South of France," said Van Gogh when he moved there in 1888. Obsessed by the artist Hokusai, he felt that the mountainous landscape of Arles was closer to his fantasy of Japan. And Arles is the place where the winner of last year's *The Times*/Pauline Hallam Memorial Award painting competition, Anne Ambler, has chosen to spend her prize, holidaying at the Hotel Atrium.

Many of the places depicted in Van Gogh's work have disappeared, but Arles is still a wonderful town for painters. The famous bridge has gone, but the café he painted has been restored, and the hospital in the rue du President Wilson is now the Espace Van Gogh. Get a copy of *Promenade sur Les Lieux Peints par Van Gogh* from the tourist office then head for the slopes of the jagged Alpilles, with its olive trees and cypresses, where some of his most famous works were painted. Choose one of the *Grand Randonnées*, (marked footpaths), which will take you into the heights, and to the curious ruined village of les Baux.

Now drive east to Aix-en-Provence, where Cézanne lived and painted at the turn of the century. Take the *Circuit Cézanne*, visit his studio first, then make for the open countryside to Mont Sainte Victoire, which dominates the landscape. Cézanne was obsessed by this mountain and painted it in hundreds of ways. It looks very different today after being ravaged by a forest fire but is still eminently paintable.

Sainte Victoire is where Picasso lived and is buried, at the château at Vauvenargues on its northern slopes. The gates are bolted and on them is a scrawled message: "The museum is in Paris". But from a café nearby you can see into Picasso's garden.

> ‘They captured the harsh light and violent colours in vermilion, cobalt and viridian’

From here, head for the Côte d'Azur through the wild countryside of the Var. Although Picasso seldom depicted the landscape, preferring the hilltop village of Mougins and Valluris, where he made his pottery, he did draw on its stark landscape.

Finally, wind your way down to Antibes, and the Château Grimaldi, with its breathtaking views across the bay, where Picasso had a studio (now a museum, housing a collection of his works).

On the colourful Riviera you are in Bonnard country. Bonnard lived at le Cannet, just above Cannes where, give or take a high-rise flat or two, you can capture an overview of the bay that he painted in high-toned but delicate colourings.

From here it's a short drive to Nice, where Matisse made his home and where you can see the world's largest collection of his drawings. Don't miss the chapel he decorated at Vence, nearby.

When Matisse first came to Provence he headed for St Tropez and the Estérel mountains, painting his masterpiece *Luse, Calme et Volupte* there in 1904. He and his fellow Fauves, the "wild beasts" Derain, Vlaminck and Marquet, settled on this part of the coast, capturing the harsh light, the umbrella pines and the violent colour with vivid canvases in vermilion, cobalt and viridian. They were joined briefly by Braque, who flirted with Fauvism before becoming a cubist. The Estérel mountains today offer the same wild colour.

Away from the crowded coastline, the Luberon, east of Avignon — with its scrub-covered mountains, cherry blossom in spring, poppies, lavender fields and vines — is untouched by time and has hosted many famous artists, notably Chagall who lived on the slopes of the spectacular village of Gordes. It's a good place today to get away from the crowds and paint in peace.

Don't miss the staggering red-ochre cliffs at Roussillon, for instance. If they don't make you want to grab a paintbrush, nothing will.

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Mont Sainte Victoire by Cézanne. The mountain dominates the landscape. Cézanne was obsessed by it and painted it in hundreds of ways

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☐ The author owns Arts in Provence, a painting centre in the Luberon. A tutored painting week, with full board costs £350, excluding the air fare to and from Marseilles. Contact Arts in Provence at 8 Rhondda Grove, London E3 5AP (0181-981 6771).

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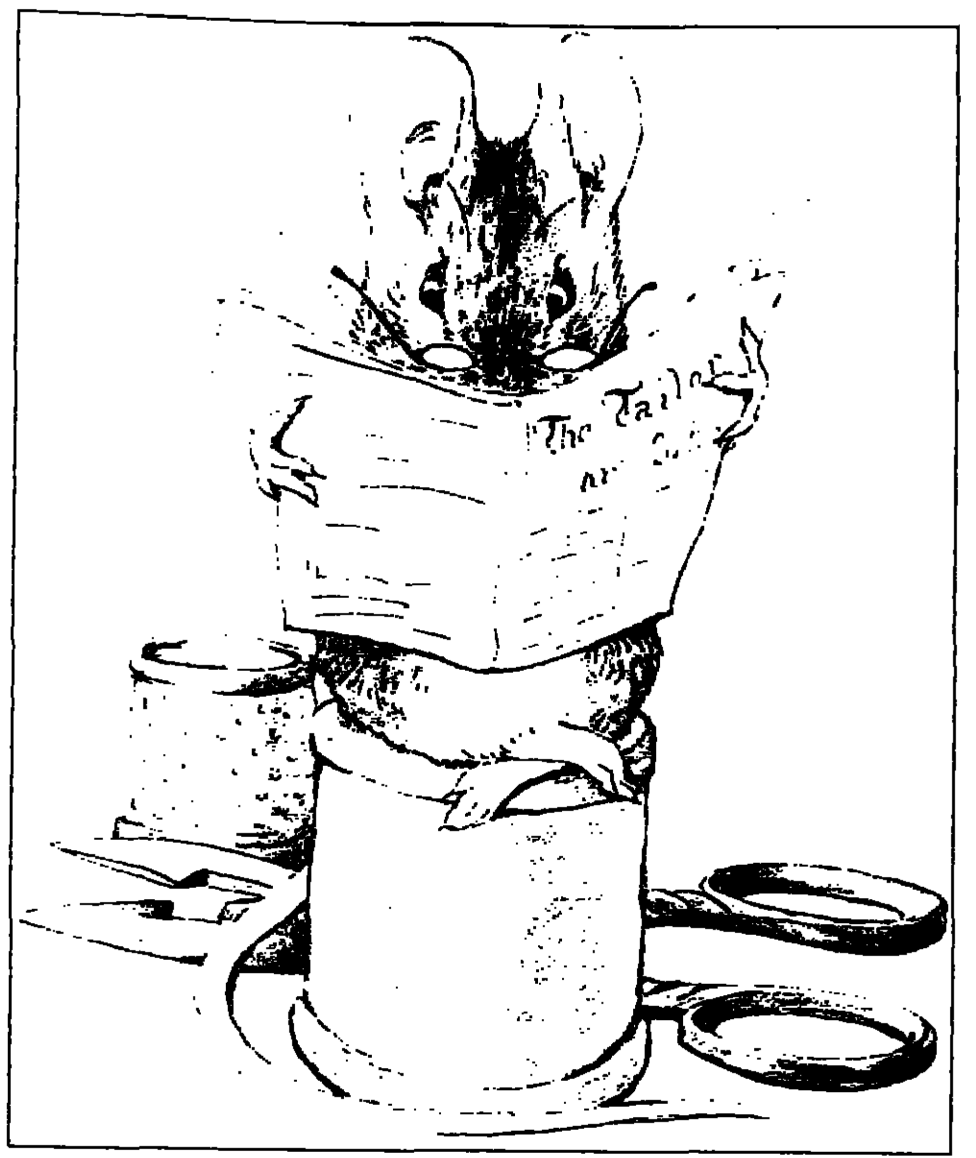

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Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-980 2415). Free. Museum open Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-5.50pm; Sun 2.30pm-5.50pm. Performances Mon-Thurs, 11am-midday, 1-2pm, 3-4pm. ⓢ

The Magic Flute: Mozart's opera set in the world of rock stars, penthouses and the environmentally aware. Plus *Ten in a Bed*, the story of Dinah Price who finds not just the Three Bears, but Simple Simon and Puss in Boots in her bed.
Unicorn Theatre, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Tickets from £4. Ten in a Bed, today, Thurs, next Sat, 11am, 2.30pm. Various performances until April 1. The Magic Flute, tomorrow, Tues, Wed, Fri, and next Sun, 2.30pm and various performances until March 5. ⓢ

Half-term Workshops: Dance and theatre workshops. Travel under the sea, enjoy storytelling from West Africa, and make your own sock puppet.
Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW3 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Fri, various times, prices and age ranges. ⓢ

Whale of a Time: Join artists in making a seascape mural featuring whales, porpoises and dolphins.
Natural History Museum, South Kensington (0171-938 9242). Age seven and over. Tues, Wed, Thurs, 11.30am-12.30pm and 2-3pm. Activities free. Adults £5, children £2.50. ⓢ

CAMBRIDGE

Hiawatha: The story of Hiawatha and his adventures, based on Longfellow's poem.
Cambridge Drama Centre, Covent Garden, Mill Road, Cambridge (01223 322748). Mon, 3pm and 7pm; Tues, 11am and 3pm. Adults £5.50, children £4.50. Ages five-11. ⓢ

CUMBRIA

The World of Beatrix Potter: Enjoy the sights, sound and smells of Lakeland, see Mrs Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddleduck and Peter Rabbit.
The Old Laundry, Crag Brow, Bowness-on-Windermere (015394 88444). Open daily 10am-4pm. Adults £2.85, children £1.85. ⓢ

EAST SUSSEX

Forget Me Not Farm: Fun-packed show based on the television programme with stories, songs, jokes and giveaways.
White Rock Theatre, White Rock, Hastings (01424 781000). Wed, 2.30pm. Ages three to nine. Tickets £4. ⓢ

KENT

Half-term fun: A chance to meet some of the 80 exotic birds in the aviary and see bird food being prepared in the bird kitchen.
Leeds Castle, Leeds, Maidstone (01622 765400). Today-next Sun, 10am-3pm. Adults £5.50, children £4.50. Admission to castle is an extra £1.50. ⓢ

Holiday Fun Trail: Experience 2000 years of history, from the Romans fighting the Celts to an air raid in 1943.
White Cliffs Experience, Market Square, Dover (01304 214566). Open daily 10am-3pm. Fun Quiz today-next Sat. Adults £4.99, children £3.50. ⓢ

SCOTLAND

Inverness Music Festival: Classical and Scottish music, country dancing and songs.
Various venues in Inverness (01463 221718). Competitions: today, Mon-Wed: Gala nights: Thurs, Fri. Tickets for competitions: adults £1, children 50p; for Gala evenings adults £5, children £3.50. ⓢ

Star Trek. The Exhibition: Boldly go to the only place in Europe where you can see everything from the reconstructed bridge of the Starship Enterprise to Mr Spock's trousers. There are fabulous masks, costumes and space ships from the original series, the famous movies and the Next Generation.
City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (0131-558 1018). Open Mon, Tues and Sat 10am-5.30pm, Wed-Fri, 10am-9pm. Sun 12-5pm. Admission adults £3.50, children £2. ⓢ

TYNE AND WEAR

Festival of Art: Make your own pots (today: 10.30am-midday, 1.30-3.30pm. Please book); Design a Magical Mask (Tues and Wed); Calligraphy Day (next Sat).
South Shields Museum and Art Gallery, Ocean Road, South Shields (0191-456 8740). Museum open Tues-Fri, 10am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-4.30pm; Sun 2-5pm. Free. Sessions 50p. ⓢ

Creepy Crawlies: Meet Scorpio from *Gladiators* who will be opening the exhibition on Mon (12.30-3.30pm). See the monster beasts, visit the model kitchen and the garden shed.
Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-222 7418). Exhibition open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm. Adults £3, children £2. ⓢ

WALES

Rainforest Action: Learn about rainforests and help to build one.
Ty Mawr Country Park, Cae Gwilym Lane, Cefn Mawr, Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 822780). Tues-Thurs, 2-4pm. Charge 20p. ⓢ

Starry-eyed: Make your own constellation light box and then see the real thing.
Minera Lead Mines and Country Park, Wern Road, Minera, Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 751320). Workshop: Wed 2.00-4.00pm. Free. ⓢ *Trek: Thurs 8.30-9.30pm. Free.*

WEST MIDLANDS

Sandwell Valley Environment Playscheme: A three-day playscheme with a space theme.
RSPB Sandwell Valley, Great Barr, Birmingham (0121-358 3013). Wed-Fri 10am-3.30pm. Booking essential. £2 per day. Ages five to 11. ⓢ

Magic Circus: Traditional circus skills and magical illusions.
Netherton Arts Centre, Netherton (01384 250333). Thurs: 2pm, 7pm; Fri: 11am, 2pm. Adults £1.50, children £2.50. ⓢ

WEST SUSSEX

Half-Term in Hawaii: Make pop-up volcanoes and garlands. Plus storytelling and volcano experiments.
The Arundel Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Mill Road, Arundel (01903 883355). Centre open daily 9.30am-4.30pm. Activities Mon-Fri 1-4pm (charge for materials only). Adults £3.95, children £2. ⓢ

Bodger and Badger in Mad Mash One: Trouble, chaos and madness plus mashed potato and messy audience participation.
Pavilion Theatre, Marine Parade, Worthing (01903 820500). Tues 2pm. Ages four to 10. Tickets £4. ⓢ

George and his Marvellous Medicine: Roald Dahl's boy hero concocts a special medicine for his grumpy granny.
Gardner Centre, Brighton (01273 685861). Tues-next Sat 6.30pm; Thurs-Sat 2.30pm. Adults £5, children £4.

YORKSHIRE

Jorvik Festival: Re-enactment of medieval family life. (today, tomorrow, 10am-4pm, Barley Hall, Coffee Yard, off Stonegate, adults £3.50, children £2.50). Working crafts gallery (today-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Hospitium, Museum Gardens. Adults 70p, children 30p), Scandinavian dancing (today, tomorrow, 1-1.45pm, 2.15-3pm, Coppergate Centre, free), Everyday Viking life for Children (Mon-Fri, 10.30am-3.30pm, Houlgate village, Coppergate Square, free).
Other events at venues in York (01904 643211). Until Sat. ⓢ

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DAY 2 Moscow Morning city tour including Red Square and the Kremlin. Afternoon free to visit galleries or explore Moscow by the famous Metro. Moor overnight.

DAY 3 Zagorsk Drive to Zagorsk, a beautiful city of the Golden Ring and an important place of pilgrimage. Return to Moscow and sail.

DAY 4 Uglich Sail to one of the most loved towns of 'Old Russia'. The views as you approach are wonderful - multi-coloured domes of churches set against a rural waterfront, conjuring an atmosphere of pure Tolstoy.

DAY 5 Yaroslavl An important and historic Volga port. See the 13th century Spassky Monastery ensemble, a group of majestic cathedrals, an elegant Rotunda and the remnants of an ancient trading centre.

DAY 6 Kostroma One of the loveliest of the Golden Ring cities and the only city in Russia to have retained the layout formed in its central part, representing the best Russian classicism of the 18th and 19th centuries.

DAY 7 River cruising Today is for relaxation and watching the enchanting countryside pass by. There will be a stop in a rural setting for those who wish to walk and enjoy a riverside picnic and barbecue.

DAY 8 Moscow Arrive in the morning and disembark. Sightseeing in Moscow until afternoon departure for London. Arrive London (Heathrow) in the evening.

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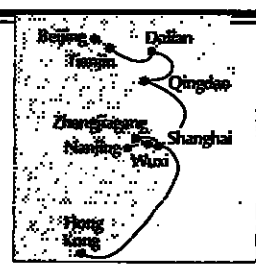

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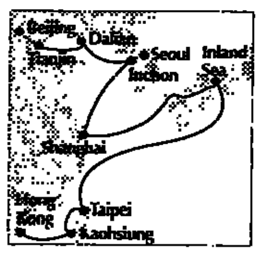

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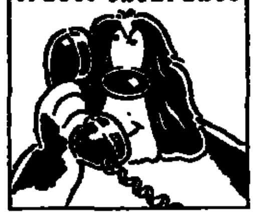

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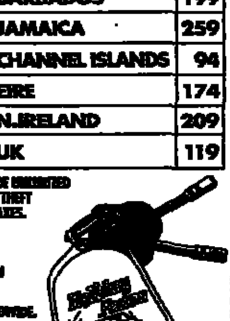

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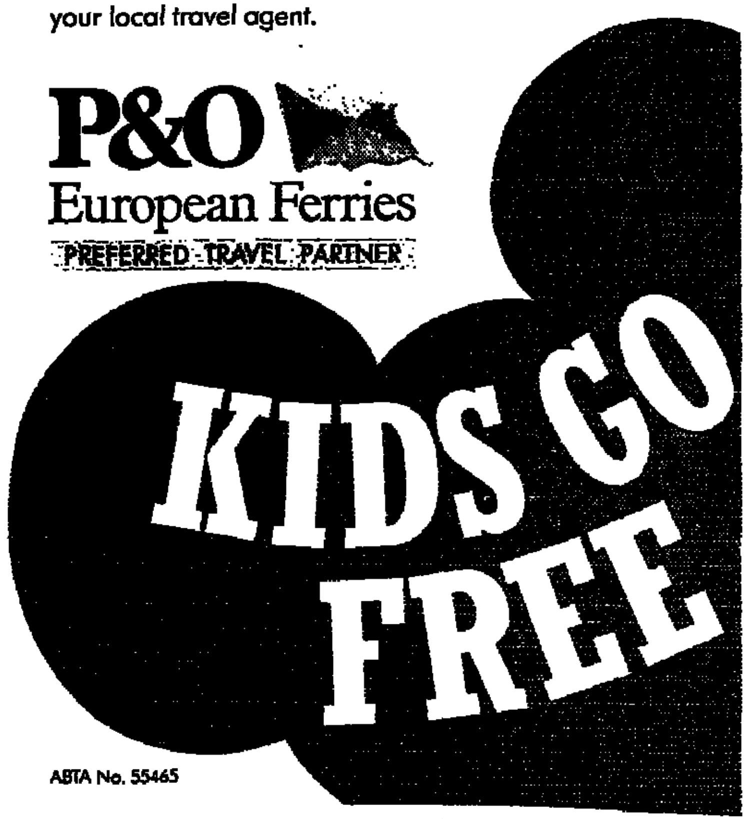

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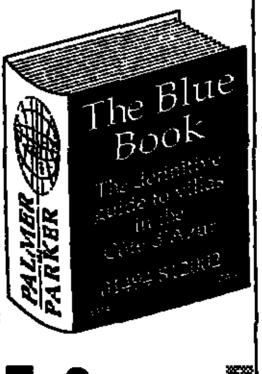

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ATTRACTIVE, hard of hearing lady, 32, who has, through pressure of work, forgotten how to love and laugh. WLTM tall dark handsome successful WGSOH N/S gent (33-42) to bring that sparkle back to life. Loves dogs, dining, watersports & travelling overseas. U must also have a caring, honest pesrsonality & a zest for life. Reply with photo please to Box No 3871

ATTRACTIVE & fun, well-educated, tall, slim, blue-eyed blonde (30) seeks tall, dark, handsome, successful & intelligent knight to rescue her and share in the full varieties of good living in a long term partnership. Must have a fun-loving, caring, honest, outgoing personality with, GSOH/wit, N/S and a zest for life (32-42). Photo please. Box No 3542

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ATTRACTIVE, slim, young 40's lady who wants more out of life than her job. WLTM attractive, intelligent witty man 40-50 who enjoys travel, good food, good wine, good company and the 5 Nations Championship! Photo guarantees response. London/S East. Box No 3906

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ATTRACTIVE female 40+ n/s solvent loves holidays in the sun walking theatre romantic candlit dinners seeks genuine caring male 46-56 to share time with - possibly time immemorial. Photo essential. London /S.E.Reply to Box No 3832

ATTRACTIVE Latin lady separated seeks active passionate n/s professional 53-63, 5'10"+ gentleman for lasting passionate relationship. Sincere replies only. Kent/S E. area. Please Reply to Box No 3522

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ATTRACTIVE creative prof woman with GSOH seeks man 45-60 who possesses similar qualities. Enjoys country theatre and travel. Photo app. London/S E.Reply Box 3738

ATTRACTIVE London woman, 42, 5'7", likes cinema, opera, literature, German, travel seeks close relationship with n/s London based intellectual man under 60 Reply Box No 3781

ATTRACTIVE and feisty Jewish brunette, 35, n/s, leggy and lissom, seeks charming professional gentleman (32 42). Please Reply to Box No 3861

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BLONDE, blue-eyed, slim! (F), 45 but looking younger. (London based) Make my 1995 a romantic one. Are you a 30/40 something, attractive, solvent male with GSOH who enjoys the good things in life? Go on pick up that pen, get your photo taken!Reply to Box No 3647

BLONDE petite homeowner no ties seeks man in London or surrounding area. I love travel cooking sport and dogs. I want you to be humorous and out going and looking for fun friendship and be 30's-50's. Photo appreciated Box No 3819

BLONDE blue eyed prof. 40 something needs 45-55 solvent stable saviour, pro/bus for sincere relationship. All normal things in life enjoyed. Photo please. Sth East. Box No 3789

BRIGHT woman 38, unattached mum of 2 super kids, successful professional, tall, slim - varied interests esp boots & music seeks passionate, confident & responsible man. Ear plugs and lucozade provided, but, must bring own enthusiasms! Prov. applicants need not apply! C.V. & photo - a.l.a. - Box No 3538

BRIGHT, attractive lady late 30's, slim, happy and independent, seeks successful interesting gentleman with GSOH for permanent relationship. Golfer, own horses, enjoys country life, travel, arts Photo app. London /Southwest.Reply Box No 3648

BRIGHT attractive lady with young child WLTM caring prof man 33+ for lasting relationship Berks/Bucks area. Please Reply with Photo Box No 3733

BRISTOL/BATH based. Attractive slim, fair-haired, fashion conscious lady seeks gentleman 56-63yrs. Varied interests incl. theatre, opera, dining and walking. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3726

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CHESHIRE widow mid 50's attractive well travelled fun loving seeks friendship and possibly long-term relationship with a considerate country-loving man Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 3598

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CREATIVE English graduate, 23, based S.E. seeks strong artistic male. Write W' recent photo Reply to Box No 3912

CULTURED slim 40's, has been alone since 1989 when husband died after a fulfilling Jewish marriage with 2 children A cinema holic. my interests include bridge, the arts travel and my family Are you confident, but not brash, established but not staid sensitive and empathetic but with a sense of humour and fun. Are we on the same wavelength? No gropers please. London.Reply to Box No 3743

DISCERNING attractive successful professional woman who appreciates life's highs and lows looking for similar late 30's early 40's man - an acheiver with personality who is sensitive Apply with reasons for contact. Must be top notch Photo essential.Reply Box 3714

DO you like travelling, music, theatre, bridge or being at home & enjoying yourself? If so, why don't we meet? I am lively, full of fun, 5'8", slim, newly retired & available! London /Southwest. Reply to Box No 3816

EDUCATED pretty widow early 60's interests include swimming French and German literature seeks well-educated professional man up to 75yrs. Southwest/London Please Reply to Box No 3812

ELEGANT sophisticated sociable lady of 40 seeks gentleman between 50-60 used to the good things in life pref. Midlands based.Reply Box No 3869

ENTHUSIASTIC newly-divorced size 12, soon to be 44, works hard but with lots of energy left for all sorts of activities, would like to give & receive TLC & share living life to the full. North London, Herts, Cambs area.Reply to Box No 3689

EXCEPTIONAL widow no ties of independent means mid 40's attractive glamorous stylish elegant tall slim & leggy. Warm, positive, cultured, sociable, well-travelled & lover of the good life. Ints. incl. classical music, opera, bridge, visual arts, outdoor activities, good food & wine. Seeks similarly warm, successful, cultured, bon-vivant Photo exch. & letter on headed stationary Box 3765

EXCLUSIVE Elegant lady 48 yrs wishes to fall in love only the healthy, wealthy & wise need apply SW1 Box No 3676

EXOTIC black graduate, 35, professional artist, exquisite, passionate & loyal would love to meet mature, generous wealthy gentleman for lasting relationship! All replies treated in strictest confidence. Box No 3868

EXTREMELY attractive slim professional female warm, witty & good company. Seeks intelligent successful Jewish man 55+, who enjoys music, theatre, travel and togetherness. Please Reply to Box No 3562

FOXY lady hunting in Cotswolds requires well-bred hound to make up couple for Hunt Ball. Please Reply to Box No 3685

GEMINI lady 42 seeks equally very attractive well-dressed professional gentleman 40-50 for enviable fun lifestyle. Interests include stylish travel romantic wining/dinig, theatre, cars, animals, gardening. Detailed letter with photo please. A.L.A. Please Reply to Box No 3641

GIRLFRIENDS GALORE, attractive, thinking, vivacious, 30's are coming to my house party, but too few chaps If you too are Pub Sch urban prof, late 30's - early 40's, living W/SW side of town, (with all your hair & clean shaven) all are prerequisites, do call Patricia 081 392 9009 after 7pm & wkends.

GOOD-LOOKING man 27 intelligent 5'10" Meditation teacher seeks beautiful woman 25-45. London Reply to Box No 3689

GRADUATE 31 artistic slim/ attractive Seeks intelligent creative male N/S, 27-36 5'10" plus. Berks/Hampshire/ Surrey Box No 3547

HELP! 27yr old Irish solicitor marooned in Nottingham seeks suitable rescue. ALA Please Reply to Box No 3696

I am tall, cultured, widowed in my 60's Would like to meet gentleman similar Pleasant looks, outgoing personality. Home west Midlands Please Reply to Box No 3637

INTELLIGENT well-educated female 28 GSOH caring sensitive and cultured seeks professional man 30-40 with artistic leanings and a love of the outdoors. London/S.E. Please Reply to Box No 3883

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD Tel 071-935 3115

KENT attractive, tall, slim, feminine lady mid 40's seeks cultured gentleman for romance. Photo app.Box No 3836

LADY actually Girl-woman! Tall, striking looking, can be elegant, 40's, divorced, n/s , unpretentious, caring, truthful, loves countryside, animals, good food & the finer things in life Seeks decent male with some sparkle to share future. Based Dorset/Som/Devon borders Please Reply to Box No 3695

LADY, early 50's looks younger, smart, slim, sensitive, blonde, fit, independent, own business, situated Hampshire WLTM n/s gentleman with boat & GSOH for sailing and adventure. Excellent cook and galley slave. Please Reply to Box No 3764

2 left feet? No sense of rhythm or humour? Thinks salsa is a type of Mexican dip - then don't read on. Wanted, 2 tall, attractive prof straight males 25+ to partner 2 fun-loving attractive prof females at living & salsa classes + some fun. Photo app. London.Reply Box No 3618

LONDON based successful affluent Company Director Age 49. Attractive, slim, n/s, with a very good sense of humour and is happiest when looking after a lady. Loves to wine, dine, travel and on the whole leads a good life, but needs someone special to be affectionate, romantic and loving with. Would like to meet a similar, independent successful lady (35-48) to pursue and enjoy the good things in life together. Please tell me about yourself with photo and 'phone no. Reply Box No 3839

LONELY in London - attractive, slim, 5'6", 40's, naturally happy Aquarian waiting for the dawning of her new age. Are you same age group, around 6', a lean mellowing hunk, maybe a touch rugged, outgoing and good to talk to? Could you be my guiding star? Photo appreciated & returned. Box No 3887

LOVELY looking, slim, blonde, 40 just divorced speaks English, Swedish and some German, looking to be someone's girlfriend. You should be attractive, 45-60. Photo please. London based.Box No 3716

MARIO Rozina is seeking Mario, who has 2 restaurants in London, 1 in Italy & 1 in France. Been waiting 2000 years! Box No 3500

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 5534

MY DAUGHTER, like Anne Cook (see recent article in Weekend Section) is same age, 38, and an attractive successful independent business woman too. She would give her right arm to meet a Stephan Clark type ideally around M25 and South. If she knew I have become a "Go between" she would half murder me (only half). Reply Box No 3686

N.LONDON. Feminine 42yr old (smoker) conventional on the surface, deep within seeks tall, sincere, fun loving man with much heart, for weekend jaunts, romance & to share the mysteries of life with. Please Reply to Box No 3635

2 Northern truffles (26 & 39) WLTM 2 bottles of vintage champagne to add sparkle & luxury. ALA.Box No 3813

1950's beauty contestant resembles Joan Collins U.S. theatrical background, ex-pat, returned to roots, casting leading man for 3rd act. London.Box No 3534

OPERA, music, food, wine lover sought by attractive professiona lady recently finding herself single again. Must be 40/55, solvent, home owner (like me) and looking for that special partner and best friend. Home counties.Reply to Box No 3804

OXFORDSHIRE lady Yorkshire born has everything but sincere, successful, humorous, generous male 50-66 Me? Own business, financially secure, delicious, slim, petite and fun Please Reply to Box No 3690

PETITE, blonde lady early 30's. Professional, runs own business. Needs to meet attractive professional gentleman of similar age and standing in life, with whom to once again share the finer things in life. Midlands area.Reply to Box No 3697

PETITE lady seeks tall dark cosmopolitan, successful gent 38-55 Min 5'10" Who enjoys dining out, classical music, travelling, for caring sincere relationship to last forever! Photo London /South Box No 3563

PREFER rugby to badminton, range rovers to robins, look like Sean Bean not Mr. Bean? Lonely mother of 2 (38) S Kent n/s seeks fun and friendship. Please Reply to Box No 3646

RATHER fabulous female, strikingly attractive slim bright vulnerable openly admits seeking intelligent warm solvent honest unattached tall male 45-56 to share sense of fun, lazy Sunday lunches & host of interests - for ever. Let's cons siding at Easter. Photo appr. Please Reply to Box No 3661

RATHER lovely lady doctor, 53, divorced - longs to share life with a kind, gentle, sensitive, intelligent, slim guy Photo would be nice! Avon /anywhere. Reply to Box No 3574

SENSATIONAL, sexy, silky smooth, spirited, strong-minded, sincere, successful, deliciously tall, dusky damsel, 30, seeks soulmate. London area Please Reply to Box No 3860

SINCERE attractive, romantic, eclectic lady with a desire to create a family. Seeks kind professional gent n/s 35-50, who like me has a zest for life. Should have integrity, GSOH, and an interest in the arts, travel. Please Reply with Photograph to Box No 3632

SLIM attractive 5'3" Irish Cailin (?) seeks gent 48-68 with GSOH. No very handsome millionaire Saturday Rendevous advertisers need reply. London/home counties. Please Reply to Box No 3746

SLIM attractive prof 48 year old Lady with varied interests wilh Gentlemen for loving caring relationship, photo appreciated. North East/ anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 3684

SOPHISTICATED lady, 60+, seeks under 70 laughing cavalier. Top notch chaps only. I've loved & lost the best! Surrey /Hants.Box No 3915

SPORT loving tall lady WLTM tall educated gentleman 60ish to enjoy world travel classical music bridge and build a happy relationship. Home counties. Photo app.Reply Box No 3810

SPORTY & very attractive brunette, 30's, n/s, prof, 5'8", WLTM some REAL men i.e. strong & successful. Please Reply to Box No 3756

SPRING CHICKEN (in looks if not in age - born 1950), continental brunette, individualistic, relaxed, design /technology /property orientated entrepreneouse living in NW London would like to err.... meet Golden Egg(head) under 55, pref. blue/green eyed, ex-pub. sch. definitely interesting '. honest.Reply to Box No 3908

SUCCESSFUL, attractive and elegant blonde, 30's V. slim but curvaceous 5'6", has forgotten until now that there's more to life than success in business. Loves the good things in life - wine, culture, travel, sports esp. skiing. GSOH and can't resist a challenge. Are you equally successful, confident, strong-minded, decisive, good-looking, cultured, well travelled, and enjoy varied interests. Are you tall, slim, fit, articulate and also love a challenge? I work in advertising and this is the 1st time I've advertised myself - have I been sucessful in persuading you? London based - Happy to travel. Photo and letter please. All replies answered. Box No 3874

TALL attractive professional man youthful 60, sincere but lonely seeks very large lady any age for companionship in London area. Box No 3914

TALL brunette 40's & fed up with the daily grind - help? London/home counties. Please Reply to Box No 3745

TALL slim blonde attractive prof. caring male, mid 30's, WLTM attractive lady (25-35) with GSOH to share country walks, theatre, cinema, for lasting relationship. London/S.E. Photo apprec. Reply Box No 3667

THE KNIGHT OF PASSION. London /home counties Box 3371
To all the ladies who replied before 7th Feb please try again as letters have gone astray.

THINKING man's crumpet, Somerset, seeks her thinking man. Brunette, warm, life-loving, 45. Varied professional & leisure interests, compassionate, successful, cosmopolitan, soft-centred, is outward success incompatible with a rich inner life? Prove me wrong. Photo please. Box No 3831

UNPRETENTIOUS, fairly vocal widow late 60's Essex. Seeks similarly disposed occasional male companion. Please Reply to Box No 3642

V. attractive lady 39 wishes to meet sucessful barrister /solicitor /prof gentleman up to 60yrs. Likes the finer things in life incl. the arts, horses & sensuous pastimes (modesty!). North-west based but will travel.Reply to Box No 3800

VERY attractive quirky young at heart mid 40's woman with lovely 13yr old son WLTM creative warm loving man in similar situation, who is like me financially independent. I am thoughtful, have spiritual leanings, settled but adventurous. Ints incl. the arts, cinema, books, swimming, dancing and yoga. London based Please send recent photo and letter to Box No 3820

VINTAGE wine for lady of non-vintage years. Is there a strong, dependable vintage wine (50+) stored out there somewhere? If so come out of the cellar and join me for future tastings fo what life could hold! London /S E.Reply to Box No 3773

VINTAGE Veuve 1937 full bodies seeks very caring generous connoisseur to release sparkle must be concert, opera goer Please Reply to Box No 3629

VIVACIOUS attractive woman (33) WLTM intelligent successful men to vie for her hand and heart Cambridge Please Reply to Box No 3628

VIVACIOUS gd. looking blonde mid 30's missing someone to care for seeks prof man. London Box No 3572

WARM womanly professional. Living in rural Clwyd WLTM 40ish professional male who is fun caring and won't moan at her for smoking! Please Reply to Box No 3728

WEST LONDON woman, 53, N/S, professional, intelligent and warm personality W.L.T.M a man with similar attributes Good humour goes without saying Box No 3900

WIDOW 50 n/s living in S.E. enjoys wining and dining, theatre, music, country walks needs a new perfect gentle knight. Could this be you? Please Reply to Box No 3892

YOUNG 60yr old lady 5'10" WLTM a sincere gentleman to share life with. S.E. London Photo would be nice Please Reply to Box No 3717

59yr old R.C. widow. Professional fit fun and healthy would dearly love to meet a widower of similar age or younger who enjoys life but needs to share to love and care. Merseyside. Please Reply to Box No 3742

GENTLEMEN

INDIANA JONES

Seeks female adventuress for romantic crusade into the temple of love.

You: slim, pretty, daring & fun-loving.

Me: Everything you'd expect from a man of this calibre!

London/home counties
Looking forward to your reply
Indiana.
REPLY TO BOX NO 3836

ABSOLUTE reality. Do you have qualms about society? Single, strong, tall, attractive young 40's, Bransonlike professional WLTM his equal (but hopefully very feminine 27/37 yr old lady), liking humanity, country life-style, security, laughter, travel, theatre, surprises, sport, animals, self-esteem, mischievousness, traditional family values and having no ties. Quite normal really, but are you anywhere? Please Reply to Box No 3762

AGREEABLY Different Essex man! Widower mid fifties 5'11" caring reliable successful businessman well spoken, varied interests, good lifestyle n/s. WLTM stylish slim lady with similar attributes. Photo, letter and phone number ensures immediate reply to exchange further details.Box No 3739

AMERICAN 36 5'10" slim n/s sensitive sentimental successful & never married. Strong Christian Values. Seeks woman of intelligence ideals inner strength & wisdom of petite /medium build. I can travel! For correspondence.Box 3813

ANTIQUE and art dealer, very successful and secure, said to be elegant and rather handsome. I'm slim, dark, of medium height, very young 43. I love travel, restaurants, cinema, fine clothes, beautiful objects. The quality of life & time is very important to me. I seek a slim, fashionable & stylish lady 25-36 who must be very attractive, with a need to be spoilt & indulged. If you consider Venice on a misty spring morning romantic, or a lazy Barbados beach. Then we have lots in common. Photograph essential. Please Reply to Box No 3729

ARTISTIC smart health professional 28, 5'9", seeks lady in 20's for romance. Photo app. London based.Box No 3807

A SPRING filled with fun and romance - awaits an intelligent, feminine, honest, lady with this successful London based Director 6' tall, n/s now turned 50 who is a true romantic. Please Reply to Box No 3705

A Sussex fine art dealer (Roger Moore look-alike) 59, slim, tall, dark and handsome. Well educated (Grammar school /U.C.L.) and well read, spoken, mannered and dressed. A cultured man with many interests but not stuffy or opinionated. Quite the opposite. A sensitive, warm hearted person with a marvellous outgoing personality. A conversationalist and raconteur with a sparkling wit. Non-smoker. Own business in Brighton area. Financially sound. Lovely Sussex cottage. New car. Seeks professional lady counterpart, C. 40-60, with view to an everlasting relationship. Details please with recent photo & tel. no. Mine on request.Reply to Box No 3652

ATTRACTIVE, stylish professional (33) part-time father to son aged 6. Well-travelled, well-educated, living/working Aberdeen. Seeks chic and pretty, single "Marie Claire" girl 26-36 to rediscover a quality life with. n/s preferred. Please Reply to Box No 3692

ATTRACTIVE, humorous and intelligent lady in her forties sought by divorced London man in his fifties. Interests dining, theatre, travel and romance. Please send photograph (returned if requested) to Box No 3606

ATTRACTIVE border-counties gentleman 34 slim athletic educated Co Dir n/s caring GSOH. App. good food & wine. Seeks attractive like-minded lady 28-35. Distance no object. Photo app Reply Box No 3721

A V.successful businessman, no ties, early fifties, smart, personable, O.K looking GSOH, n/s, now with time to enjoy life WLTM slim attractive 30's - 40's lady for laughter, travel, fun and who knows First ad - has taken courage - pluck up yours, lets exchange photos phone numbers. Box No 3811

A 40yr old n/s alcoholic carnivore seeks E. Midlands cell-mate rather than cure! ALA.Reply to Box No 3695

GENTLEMEN

BE MINE this Spring. I am 6'8" professional, good looking will pass for 48 If you expect TOTAL care are 45-53 petite or trim n/s also enjoy country house antiques bridge and candle lit dinners do meet this unashamed romantic Capricorn in Yorkshire or Amersham Bucks.What's your sign? Photo app.Please Reply Box No 3722

BERKSHIRE based, tall youthful slim 40's, solvent successful and straight-forward an unfulfilled romantic, appreciative of life's comforts, dog and underdog lover! Looking to provide support and receive same from an attractive and intelligent, slim and stylish, loyal lady 30/40's. Honest photo app. Reply to Box No 3561

BIRMINGHAM solicitor 38, outdoor sports enthusiast seek stylish sophisticated lady 25-35 with a GSOH. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 3809

BRIDGE FANATIC active and solvent WLTM an intelligent old bird with a strong right wing (in the 50-60 age group with a view to a permanent partnership. Surrey based. Please Reply to Box No 3768

BUSY professional. Tall, slim, presentable male 42 Now looking. Seeks similar happy 35+ lady with level head, subtle style and conversation. London. Please Reply to Box No 3668

CENTRAL Scotland. Tall, single, good-looking, professional 46 year old Scot - just returned after long exile - seeks intelligent attractive younger lady for lasting relationship. please reply with photo to Box..

DONCASTER or 30 miles radius - to complete and perfect the life of a 48 year old tall special financier. Wanted: slim very special lady around 38. Chilren no problem. Initially for romance - if suited?? Please Reply to Box No 3644

DREAMER - London based gentleman, 56, good looking, fit, wearing well, 5'7", zest for life, many interests. Looking for slim elegant, elusive lady 50-60, any area. At home in high heels or green wellies. Why not make my dream come true. Box 3917

EDINBURGH Businessman 42 Enjoys theatre, weekends away animals, skiing. Wishes a sensuous wicked lady for life expectancy Box No 3520

ENGLISH gentleman (49) wishes to meet American lady with a view to romance. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 3663

FRENCH BUSINESSMAN 36, very attractive, successful, romantic, sincere, passionate, challenging, stylish, skiing, travel, food. Seeks genuine feminine, curvaceous, attractive, executive/business lady 30-45 for exciting passionate romance.Photo essential. London/country.Box No 3180

GENTLEMAN 50 n/s active, happy, solvent, seeks similar lady for laughter, adventure, culture, friendship maybe more Please Reply to Box No 3869

GOOD-LOOKING, slim, caring, cultivated chap (39) with old fashioned values but young at heart, who enjoys the sea, firesides, friendships, forests, Fuzzi Friel, Faults and foreign parts. Seeks stimulating, sv'elte, sensual lady with country lifestyle and a love of animals for deep and meaningful future. Berks /south /anywhere. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3539

GOOD LOOKING, slim, 5'10", young looking, businessman, widower. Plenty of assets but no special lady to indulge. So he seeks an attractive lady 45-55yrs with good looks, good legs, good company to share a good life together. photo essential. Box No 3858

GREEK GOD 46 seeks Aphrodite with nice jugs. Photo? South. Please Reply to Box No 3482

HAMILTONS CLUB (West Yorkshire) Newly opened. Sauna, Jacuzzi, Massage. Mon-Fri 10-10pm. 0274 743432

HANDSOME, strong, man of action, 39. Successful professional career. Varied interests, kind, humorous. Seeks warm hearted, intelligent female to share life's adventures. Home Counties based. Photo please. Box No 3880

HANDSOME Professional 39yr old, well travelled, interesting and caring, many varied interests seeks bright and interesting partner to open up new horizons. Midlands based, photo if poss. Reply to Box No 3681

HANDSOME male seeks ex-private school female or member of the aristocracy, for good times, looks and age unimportant. I am 33 years of age. Please Reply to Box No 3601

HAPPY, warm, tall, slim gentleman 57rs 6ft 2ins divorced. Various interests, countryside lover. Seeks total relationship and commitment with tall unattached sensuous 50 ish woman Salisbury/Bournemouth area. Photo appreciated. Box 3640

HOUSE-TRAINED & fairly affectionate: abandoned 52, seeks partner initially to share Far-east holiday inc. H.K. 7s in March.Reply to Box No 3529

I'M considered a great catch, however that special lady has not yet walked into my life. I'm a very successful world-travelling executive, young 40, in the fortunate position to do almost anything and have almost anything I want. I'm attractive, fit, with good style and character. I need the motivation of an attractive, fit, intelligent lady 26-36 with class/style, to make me appreciate the simple things in life. Location no problem. Photograph and tel. no please Reply Box No 3920

I wish to meet you! - If you have a fantastic sense of humour and enjoy life. I am 36, 5ft 11 inches, green-eyed and slim. Also well-travelled- wishing to meet someone similar for friendship and perhaps a little bit more! Please Reply to Box No 3639

JAPANESE businessman very successful but single 60's seeks female friend/companion 30+ to share travelling and the good things in life. Homes in London, Paris and Japan. Even better if you speak a little Japanese. Please Reply to Box No 3630

LAWYER tall, 30's, adventurous & attractive. WLTM a slim sensual foxy lady 40-55 for fun. Photo plse. London. Box 3546

LECTURER, 40, 6', single seeks lady with class! Travel, arts, walks.Box 3481. Lond & S.E.

MALE, fit, slim, very presentable, genuine, honourable, professional, very secure. Seeks true, permanent live-in girlfriend (Alternatively perhaps live in both homes). Someone free seeking marriage 30-47yrs. Hopefully very very trim, noticeably very curvaceous. Genuine, caring, meaningful, on-going loving, positive relationship. Established south of London. Please Reply to Box No 3409

NICE-LOOKING well travelled professional, young 43, good company, currently learning French seeks French speaking lady for romance travel and possibly tennis. S.W. London. Please Reply to Box No 3608

ME, travelled widely, live London, mid fifties, strong (mind and body), honest, resourceful, sensitive and confident, own home and business. You, seriously rich, attractive, missing warmth of the shared experience, the glance, the touch, new challenges Reply to Box No 3828

NON-MILLIONAIRE but good-fun, easy-going 30 year old guy. Reasonably attractive & fit with everything in the right place at the last count. Seeks good-looking, straightforward 25-30 year old female with sense of humour to share good times. Someone reading this is my perfect companion. Take the plunge and write with a recent photo. Mine in return. Wilts/M4 corridor. Please Reply to Box No 3666

NORTH Leics gentleman 48 children now grown up. Intelligent semi professional. N/s good talker. Avg. height & shape travel, garden, country. Seeks interesting lady to share life Please Reply to Box No 3708

POLICE SGT 37, with attitude, seeks actress, artist, musician, dancer. Superstar or otherwise. Midlands. Box No 3543

PROFESSIONAL man offers loving, lasting exciting and magical relationship to an attractive and sensuous lady ideally under 40 who would also appreciate his C. London home and his unique profession.Reply Box No 3837

RET'D man. Home & car. n/s. fit 70 WLTM compatable caring lady for committed relationship. Photo app. & birthday plse. NW Surrey.Box No 3749

RURAL lifestyle in Northumberland. Age 47, divorced, 5'10", slim, n/s, dark-brown hair (thinning). Caring & dependable, GSOH, Own retail business. Enjoys countryside, wildlife, travel, books, photography, cinema, gardens, picnics and more. Seeks slim n/s lady for walks talks and lasting relationship. Box No 3916

SEMI-RETIRED ex-publican early 50's slightly frayed round the edges, one previous careful owner, seeks a petite lady 35-45 to help with his re-entry into the real world. Letter and photo appreciated. West Berks area. Please Reply to Box No 3638

SINCERE secure successful very youthful 44 country-loving man WLTM younger attractive n/s lady to share beach walks golf course, fireside. Photo app. N.E. Scotland. Box No 3565

SINGLE, professional, attractive caring male, 32, fit and sporty Very solvent; enjoys skiing, walking, and countryside. Seeks attractive, affectionate, n/s single female, 21-30 for lasting relationship, South East. Photo please. Box No 3879

TALL cheerful professional, Paul, 40, seeks n/s interesting lady 26-43. London. Please Reply to Box No 3640

TALL dark slim prof male 40 looking to share fun times & tender moments + the good things in life with someone special. WLTM an attractive classy slim prof lady 30-40 with GSOH easy-going & warm-hearted. North-east area. Photo & letter please to Box No 3624

TALL, fairly attractive male, late thirties, professional, educated, caring, multitalented with VGSOH, would like to meet younger, attractive and unattached single lady, n/s, who is down to earth, affectionate, honest, cheerful, caring and stable by nature and who is looking for a permanent relationship, maybe more London/Surrey area pref. No fitties or pet addicts please. Photo appreciated but not essential.Reply Box No 3735

TALL, slim, well-educated, single, professional man, 43, child friendly, with penchant for tennis, theatre and countryside, seeks comparable lady with GSOH to be best friend and lover. N/S. Northwest. Photo appreciated. Box No 3854

THE KNIGHT OF PASSION. London /home counties Box 3371
To all the ladies who replied before 7th Feb please try again as letters have gone astray.

TO DARE to care again. Mid 40's man London/Thames Valley based craves once again intimacy, warmth and passion of caring, loving relationship. Points of contact embrace theatre, good food and better wine: Italy & France; stimulating conversation & reasonable politics; country house hotels; & long lazy Sunday mornings. I want high standards, warmth, passion, & the innocence to care again. I'm happily solvent, company director, tolerantly public school, and an active father of 2 teenagers. Time has come to rejoin real world. Photograph & bespoke lettrer ensure reply and hopefully dinner. Please Reply to Box No 3654

VALENTINE gone, Surrey widower, 64 - a successful business man, seeks attractive, warm, vivacious lady 47-52. Someone to come home to & share life with. A professional lady or widow financially sound but unhappy, no ties. Good home, gardening, pets - many interests, cars, holidays, etc. Please send photo. Reply to Box No 3701

VERY good-looking successful man aged 41 who through pressure of work has allowed social life to come 2nd. Now wishes to meet a very good-looking tactile intelligent lady for wining and dining in a fun 1-1 relationship. Recent photo & tel no appreciated. Location unimportant. Please reply to Box No 3567

WANTED female 25-32 with GSOH. Slim build pref size 8-12, possibly a lawyer, barrister, accountant or someone similary involved in the professions. Sought by somebody who appreciates your career as much as their own and wishes to share exotic holidays & the finer things in life. Pref. based in Southeast /London. ME: tall blonde 28 GSOH & never boring! The sort of guy that even Mum would like. Photo app. Reply to Box No 3747

WARM considerate 49yr successful self-employed professional lives in Surrey seeks attractive lady for close long-term relationship. Photo app. Reply to Box No 3624

WARM & caring man, mid 50's, tall, professional (project auditing) Unattached & financially independent, would like to meet lady in similar position, kind & contented, for friendship, companionship, perhaps more. London & beyond.Box No 3651

WHO was Leos Janácek? Answers please from slim, 40's n/s females to 6ft. slim, successful, solvent, caring, considerate, male with love of life, countryside, nature, wild-life & motoring & hill-walking. North-west area.Reply to Box No 3815

YOU are intelligent, enjoy conversation, travel, keeping fit/sports, and have your life together. I am 42, single, no ties, successful in the City and enjoy what I do. Having lived abroad and with GSOH, I am optimistic for the future. Please send letter and photo. Discretion assured Box No 3846

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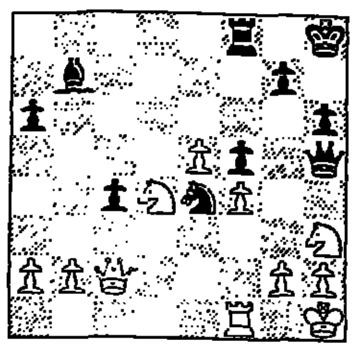
GAMES

Chess

by Raymond Keene

The sparkling sacrificial conclusions to games created by Alexander Alekhine never fail to exert an imaginative pull. Two more of his masterpieces have formed the topic of intense reader scrutiny.

The Winning Move position for January 2 was from Torres-Alekhine, Seville 1922. How did Alekhine, Black and to play, finish the game with a brilliant coup?



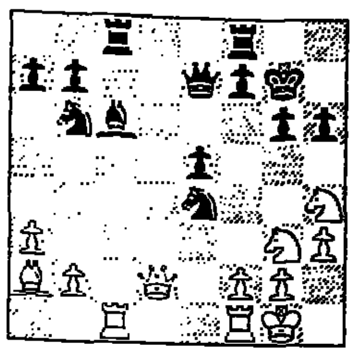
Solution: 1 . . . Qxh3! 2 gxh3 Nf2+ 3 Kg1 Nxh3 mate.

E. Webster of Lancashire and Philip Greaney of Buckinghamshire both suggest that White would do better to decline the knight with 2 Rf3, following up with Qxc4. However, in that case, Black would be a piece ahead, which is comfortably sufficient to win the game at international level.

There is, in fact, one further neat point. After 1 . . . Qxh3 2 Rf3 Qh5, White cannot immediately capture with 3 Qxc4, as this allows 3 . . . Ng3+, winning further material, as 4 Rxg3 allows 4 . . . Qd1+ mating.

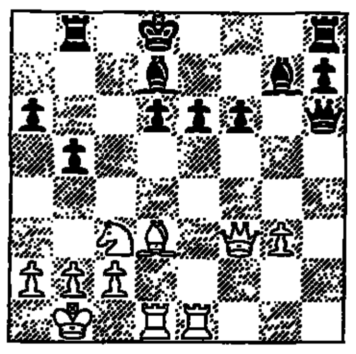
The position from Winning Move for November 29 last year is a variation from the Alekhine-Capablanca, Buenos Aires, 1927.

Here we see a might-have-been from the final game of the marathon match which first crowned Alekhine as World Champion. White has a chance to break through the black defences with an elegant combination. Can you see it?



Solution: 1 Nhf5+! gxf5 2 Nxf5+ Kf6 3 Qxh6+ Kxf5 4 g4 mate. After 1 Nhf5+, if 1 . . . Kf6 then 2 Qxh6 is extremely strong, but Richard Beetham of Harrogate points out an interesting alternative: 2 Rxc6+! Rxc6 (2 . . . bxc6 leads to the same thing) 3 Nxe4+ Kxf5 4 g4+ Kxe4 5 f3 checkmate. Well done. Alekhine would have approved.

Now I turn to a game from John Nunn's collection of his best games. The January 16 Winning Move was from Nunn-Chandler, London, 1985. At first sight, it appears that it is Black's king that should give him the greatest concern, but in fact it is another feature of Black's position that brings about his downfall. How did White continue?



Solution: 1 Rh1! Qg5 2 Rh5 traps the black queen. Richard Tindall of Cambridge suggests that at the end of the solution, Black could try 2 . . . Bc6, counter-attacking against the white queen. This is a good try, but it fails to 3 Qxc6 Qxh5 4 Qxd6+ Kc8 5 Qc6+ Kd8 6 Be2+, when the black queen is lost.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

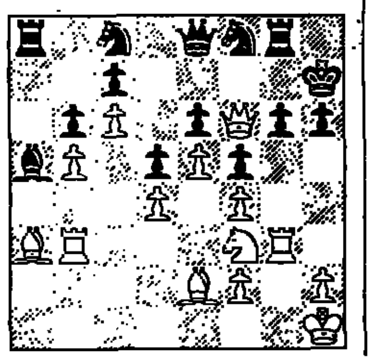
This position is from the game Glek - Kersetz, Bad Godesberg 1995.

White has gained space all over the board and now needs to open a line on the kingside to finish off the game. How did he achieve this with a neat tactic?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qc8

Last week's winners: G Mancey, Ashford, Kent; D P Moore, Caterham, Surrey; Dr D G Belasco, Swaffham, Norfolk.



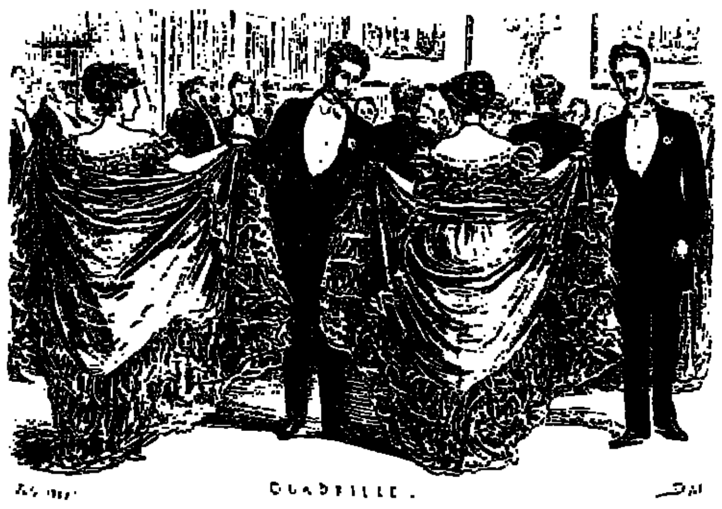
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 45, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 22.



ANOTHER REMARKABLE STUDY FROM NATURE.

"I should like a receipt for the children"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was *submitted by R. Gedling, of Epsom.*

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARGAND
a. A silver/brass alloy
b. A mathematical diagram
c. An itinerant fishmonger

DECAUDATION
a. Thawing
b. Voting by tribes
c. Removal of the tail

FORB
a. A confidence trickster
b. To pretend to be ill
c. Herbaceous fodder

ANGAREB
a. A South Sea fish
b. A light bed
c. An Angolan rebel

Answers on page 17

COMPUTER GAMES

AN IMPRESSIVE mailbag for Cyberspace Twelve, in which we asked you to review any new title in your collection, good or bad.

Surprisingly it was Acorn Archimedes' battlefield sim "Canon Fodder" which prompted most reviews. Richard Godsall, of Dudley was, however, the only one to ponder the game's prominent disclaimer of any association with the Royal British Legion. He wrote: "On loading, you are presented with a screen denying any association. I assume that they have done this because of the numerous poppies in the opening scenes and credit screens." The game has 24 missions, each divided into up to six phases, and the arsenal at your disposal progresses from grenades and bazookas to jeeps, tanks and, ultimately, helicopters. Mr Godsall added that he has yet to fly the latter.

Jonathan Laurence of Macclesfield also raved: "It's packed with impaled and screaming soldiers, civilians about to have their homes destroyed and people being shot just for fun," he drooled. "For each level you get three or four men, an unlimited supply of bullets but a limited supply of other ammunition. It is very hard, but satisfying and meaty," he concluded.

The game's sequel, imaginatively entitled "Canon Fodder 2" drew a significantly less enthusiastic response from Jonathan Coupès of Cranbrook, Kent. This time the sergeant is informing his men that they have been kidnapped by time-travelling aliens for whom they must now work on a variety of time-skipping missions.

"It is more of the same with a few extras: more traps to hinder and vehicles to help," he wrote. "I'd only recommend it to the die-hard trigger-happy."

Timothy Rudge of Southampton was ecstatic about "Ecstatica", another brutal game, this time from Psygnosis, which he describes as an "interactive manhunt". Here you seek refuge in a remote village and quickly find yourself on the run from murderous demonic creatures. They have already wiped out most of the residents and now they're gunning for you.

"If you are to stay alive for more than a nanosecond you must have your wits about you and move from house to house quickly," he wrote.

"A new technique, Ellipsoid Technology, allows the characters to be controlled with unparalleled accuracy. The game comes on CD-Rom, with the facility to upload some or all of its 70 megabytes to your hard disc, and is an absolute must for any serious games player.

"Ecstatica" carried an ELASPA certification of 18 and I feel that is correct. Although you do not see gushing blood, you do see all the movements associated with the killing of creatures."

At 14, Sunderland's Peter Walsh would have to wait four years until he could play "Ecstatica" but for now he seems happy enough with the budget-priced Shareware version of Apogee's "Whacky Wheels", an animated racing game. "The racers are different animals such as sharks, tigers and racoons. As you race around the tracks, set in desert or marshland, you run over hedgehogs to collect them, which you later fire at opponents. You can also pick up oil and bombs."

Next week we will reveal the names of our six Cyberspace Twelve winners. News and views as usual please, to: Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN (fax: 0171-729 6791).

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

WITH more and more books about bridge being published, I have decided to review several volumes that I have recently received.

Step by Step: Constructive Bidding, by Tony Sowter

Although one might imagine otherwise from the title, this is not a beginners' book. It assumes readers are familiar with the basics and sets out to improve their constructive bidding. The author is an experienced teacher and is well aware of the most common problems that intermediate players have with the game. The book addresses such problems, and attempts to put them right. Most average players should find that their results improve considerably after reading this book.

Conventional Bidding Explained, by Freddie North

I think most bridge teaching overemphasises the use of conventions. For years I have played in rubber bridge games in which the standard is at least as high as, say, the Camrose trials, and yet the bidding used is pretty straightforward. It doesn't go much beyond the takeout double, Stayman and Blackwood. However, if you venture into the duplicate world you will find that the most incompetent of pairs will have convention cards filled to bursting with the most obscure understandings.

For the uninitiated, a first trip to the local duplicate can be a nightmare. Everybody seems to be tapping the table to alert bids which have some meaning other than the obvious. For some it can be so off-putting that they never return. This book attempts to list the most commonplace conventions, and gives a good summary of current practice. The conventions' advantages and disadvantages are discussed and their usage explained. They are also given a star rating from one to five. I'd give most of them 0, but that's another matter.

Play Bridge at Home, by Tony Forrester

This is a beginners' book. It describes how to play the game from scratch. The idea, as the title suggests, is that four people should be able to sit down at home with this book and teach themselves the rudiments of the game.

One of the problems with writing such a book is that there is much that needs to be explained before play can commence. In practice, I feel that the four people concerned would need to have studied the book beforehand, otherwise they would get so bogged down with trying to understand the scoring that they would probably give up and play canasta instead. Nevertheless, if you want to learn the game without the commitment or expense of classes, this is a good way to do so.

These three books are published by Batsford and each costs £8.99. If you have difficulty getting hold of them, try the Chess and Bridge Bookshop, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR (0171-388 2404) or IPBM Mail Order (0115 9422615).

My main complaint about the Batsford books is that they seem to cost a lot for the amount of material you get. American books are usually cheaper — for example, Bill Root's excellent *Defensive Bridge Play Complete* (published by Robert Hale) costs £18 and has 400 large pages. The Batsford books cost about half as much for 120-150 much smaller pages — at least twice as expensive per word.

One of the reviews I read of Forrester's book was a little scathing about him taking several lines to describe the play of A Q J x opposite K x. Those of you who read this column regularly no doubt find it easy, but beginners can get confused.

Better players on automatic can also make mistakes with this combination. In a hand I described a few weeks ago, the declarer had A K J x opposite Q x. When the suit was led, she followed the usual rule of thumb (which I recently saw laboured in an Australian teaching video to such soporific effect that I woke up two hours later) of taking in the short hand to avoid blocking the suit. On this occasion, though, it was correct to block the suit to keep the queen as an entry. It all goes to show, you must not play by rule of thumb, you must treat each case on its merits.

Boris Schapiro tells a story of the old half-crown game at Lederer's Club. A character called Collingwood, a semi-professional player, who, according to Boris, weighed 25 stone (probably nearer 18 stone if you allow for poetic licence) was playing with a formidable lady, Madame de Mesquita. She was one of those players who will not be denied. Collingwood picked up:

♠AQJxxxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣x

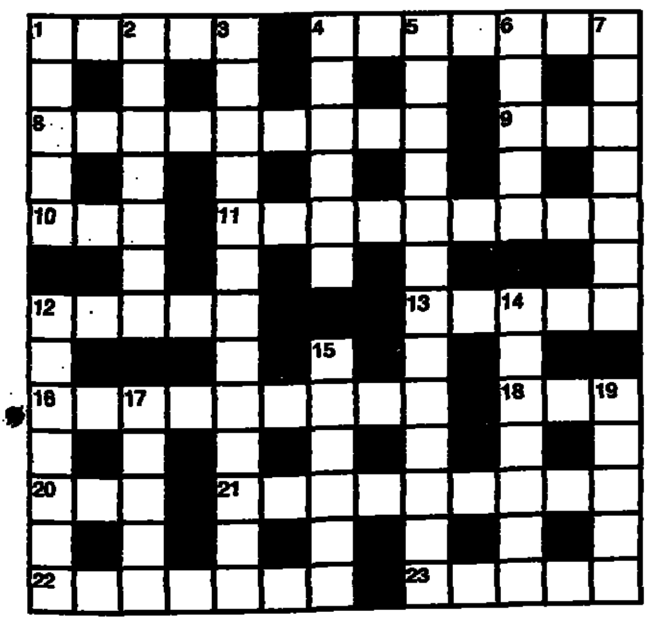
and this was the auction:

de Mesquita	Collingwood
1 NT	2♠
2 NT	3♠
3 NT	Resigned Pass

According to Boris, before the opening lead Collingwood ponderously heaved himself to his feet and shambled round to look at Madame de Mesquita's hand (quite improper). In her hand he saw king doubleton of spades among other assorted aces and kings, so he gave a surreptitious thumbs-up to Boris before returning to his chair.

On winning the opening lead, the declarer set about the spades by leading her small one to the ace. Collingwood once more rose, gathered up the rest of the dummy's cards and threw them through the open window into the street saying: "You won't be needing these madam." If only Forrester's book had been available in those days.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 399

ACROSS
- 1 Profundity (5)
- 4 Enchant (7)
- 8 Fruit; show of disapproval (9)
- 9 One thousandth of an inch (3)
- 10 Slide down mountain (3)
- 11 Peremptorily (3,2,4)
- 12 Goddess of Love (5)
- 13 Hurried, rash (5)
- 16 Deformed (9)
- 18 Hire out; a replayed serve (3)
- 20 Princess — *(G&S)* (3)
- 21 Lifeless (9)
- 22 An intellectual (7)
- 23 Recipient of hospitality (5)

DOWN
- 1 "Who —, wins" (SAS motto) (5)
- 2 Strong enthusiasm, anger (7)
- 3 Take-it-or-leave-it situation (7,6)
- 4 Upbraid (6)
- 5 One's customary cast of mind (3,2,8)
- 6 Florida bay resort (5)
- 7 Period of recreation (7)
- 12 Blood-drinker; type of bat (7)
- 14 Rescue (from destruction) (7)
- 15 High ground (6)
- 17 Jargon; non-standard language (5)
- 19 Stealing (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 398

ACROSS: 6 Pitch-and-toss 7 Parcel 8 Suborn 9 Dell 10 Manifest 12 Decrepit 16 Rope 18 Sporty 20 Chancy 21 Top-heaviness

DOWN: 1 Stickler 2 Shalom 3 Unison 4 Stub 5 Osiris 6 Peace 11 Forsaken 13 Employ 14 Pay-day 15 Tuck in 17 Packs 19 Ruhr

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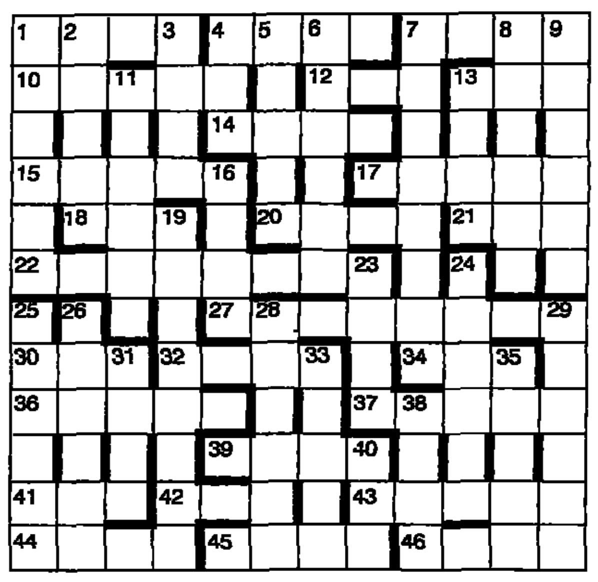
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3293: Innards, by Machiavelli

The 26 across lights are words formed by removing the first and last letters from a longer word. Each letter of the alphabet has been removed once as a first and one as a last letter. Across clues contain a one-word definition of the light to be entered at that number, but belong as a whole to the longer word (to which the figure in brackets refers) used to form an across light elsewhere. *Down clues are normal.* One word appears twice in the diagram.

ACROSS
1. Crêpe's name featured in intensive campaign (6)
4. During quiet year, change one's mind once about key arrangement (6)
7. Useful explosive device, for each bags a lot of soldiers (5)
10. Left to reduce acid inside coffin (6)
12. Outer sepal kept in city for a month (6)
13. A sulphide, one at the centre in stupid craze (6)
14. A composer has lost, god willing, just part of investment (6)
15. Back in a cave I, a king, once sat on the throne (6)
17. Has two short rivers in the interior — that's not worth much (7)
18. More philosophy, note — "Work is money" (7)
20. Most of giant water supply split under Islamic law (5)
21. In the past, touching training given to Ginny (5)
22. A hundred original curtain-rods are not delivered to the judge (7)
27. Prisoner, one of the numbers held by a number abroad endlessly (6)
30. Sad heart in time stops (5)
32. English club — it's adapted for elder statesmen (7)
34. Craft demands 100 stotinki to carry a letter round (6)
36. Showing distressful signs wrestle inwardly, lacking guts (10).
37. Following a foreign air line on its return course (5)
39. African ruminant, found around Harare initially, goes back to South Africa (5)
41. Poke wing inside hooded cloak (5)
42. The extra bits we brought back to stitch together (7)
43. I see English headgear in polar regions (6)
44. Textile weaving — I belong here (7)
45. Coming round about noon, it's not difficult being together (5)
46. Wast thou in first place, overwhelming the crew that's second heaviest? (10)

DOWN
1. Cobras not swimming horizontally (6)
2. I open out and give my view (5)
3. Tree spelt with two letters (4)
4. Tree spelt with only half a letter (3)
5. Be sick once, having caught the right disease (5)
6. Woolly copper quits over gaps (6)
7. Joined with links (or lynx, perhaps), outgrowing (8)
8. *Favouring French Revolution* principles, 100+4=1000 (6)
9. Colouring up at a police station (6)
11. Beat Ananias to camp (6)
13. Why they say some land is easily manageable (4)
16. He bungled — others only utter "Well done!" (4)
19. Recorder, one who breaks down, we hear (8)
23. Cut off the bottom of a slice (4)
24. Update of military position supplied by turbulent priest (6)
25. Orange-pink clothing for principal in Handel's harmonised composition (6)
26. Bullion endlessly melted down, formed into little round parts (6)
28. Embraces borne as a child (6)
29. Edmund's vanished, without children at first (6)
31. Ocean receiving river waters (4)
33. Consciousness raised by slaves of old (5)
35. Out of bed? Take drink first (5)
38. A moment ago playing partners split about play (4)
40. Took in and put up Japanese worker (3)



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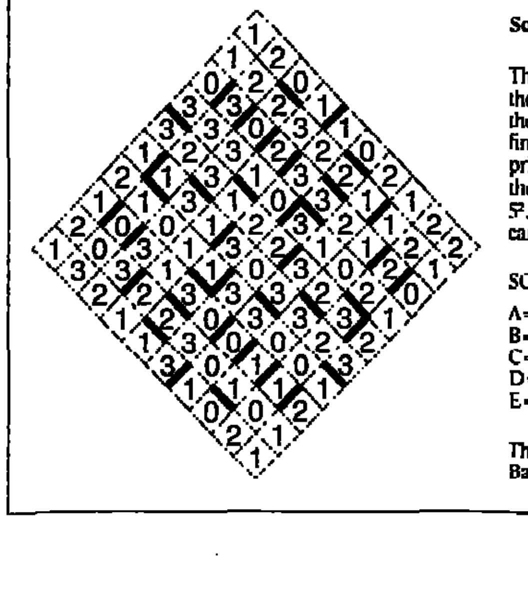

Solution and notes to BR's Home Base by Wolfram, No 3290

This puzzle commemorated the centenary of the birth of (Babe) George Herman Ruth, the American baseball player. He was born on February 6, 1895. The diamond shape of the grid is intended to represent a baseball pitch, and the puzzle is set in base 4; the final base is the game — hence the title. The solver should be able to calculate that with primes of up to 200 the only bases that give a 7 digit figure (2 right) of a square must be those of 5 or less. Then considering 19 (right), which is palindromic, the only solution is 5², which is 121 in base 4. No other base of 5 or lower satisfies this. Therefore the puzzle can be completed using base 4.

SOLUTION: The letters in the clues represent the following primes:

A=97 F=59 L=11 R=17
B=23 G=31 M=7 S=197
C=53 H=73 N=29 T=193
D=83 J=67 P=37 U=13
E=5 K=101 Q=3

The winner was Richard Wilkinson, of Surbiton, Surrey; the runners-up were Hector Barker, of Formby, Liverpool, and Rodney F. Jones, of Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

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Custom building your new car by computer

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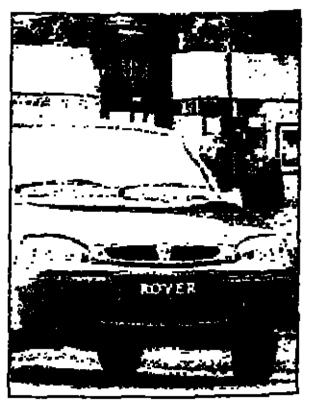
CAR 95

Rover's little old Granny gets a facelift

Page 10



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18 1995

4,000 Renault people-carriers called in for checks after *Car 95* investigates blazes

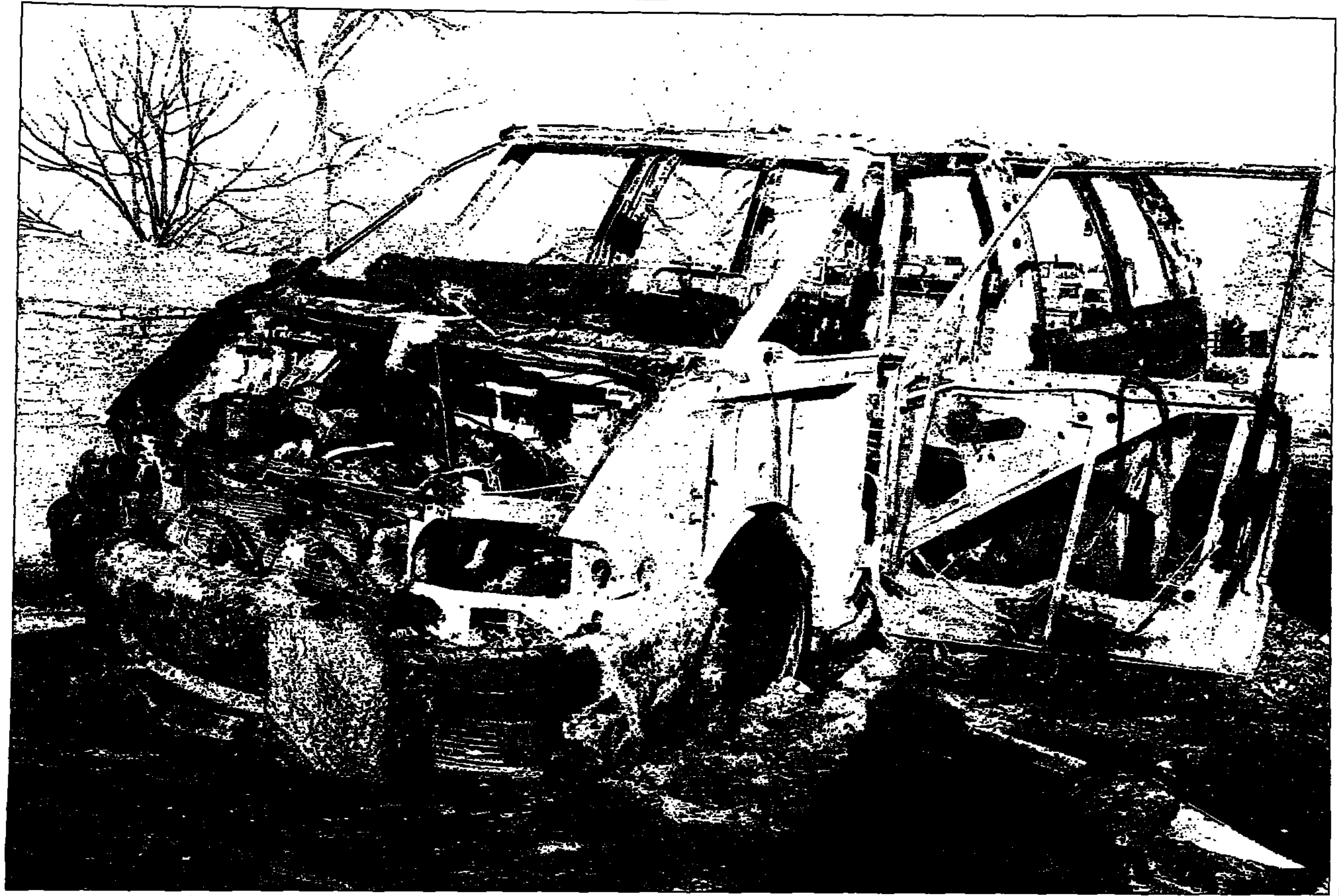
Fire mystery Espace recalled

Tony Dawe on how a family's narrow escape has prompted safety alterations to a bestseller

Renault yesterday ordered a recall of the Espace, Britain's bestselling "people-carrier", because of a fault which has caused a series of potentially lethal fires in the past few months.

The company made the announcement following a two-week investigation by *Car 95* and pressure from insurance companies, which have paid out on claims because of the fires. It also admitted that the fault was rectified last June but models made before that date have not, until now, been called in for modifications.

The recall affects 4,000 turbo diesels registered between March 1993 and last June. They will be fitted with a fuse in the pre-heating system to prevent short-circuiting, which has occurred because of the proximity of the fuel filter outlet and electrical wiring. The company will contact owners directly but they can take their vehicles immediately to their nearest dealers, all of whom have been alerted to the potential hazard.



A burnt-out case: the wreck of the car from which Andy Croson and his family escaped as it went up in flames on their driveway. They reported the fire to Renault immediately

The Espace: leader in the competitive MPV field

In the worst case discovered by *Car 95*, Andy Croson, a motorist from Peterborough, escaped with his wife and four young children when the engine compartment in his diesel-powered Espace caught fire. By the time the fire brigade arrived, his 17-month-old vehicle was completely burnt out.

Mr Croson has criticised Renault for the delay in acknowledging the safety problem which "could have put lives at risk". He alerted the company immediately after the fire but said it was more than six weeks before the company asked to inspect the vehicle; and that was after he had contacted *The Times* and made several calls to his insurance company.

"It could have put lives at risk": Mr Croson with his wife and children, all in the Espace when it caught fire

A link between the fires was first identified by the Prudential's senior engineer and reported to colleagues at a secret meeting at the Motor Repair Research Centre. Other companies have since found similarities in cases under investigation and this week called in Renault engineers to help analyse the information.

Several fires occurred within minutes of the cars being started in freezing weather, leading to speculation that the fault could be in the pre-heating system. The Espace is currently the bestselling "multi-purpose vehicle" (MPV) in Europe and Britain, where 7,125 were sold last year. Prices range from £16,625 for the basic 2-litre RN family model to £27,000 for the automatic luxury version.

It is, however, facing an increasing challenge to its pole position this year, as seven new models are launched in Britain by Ford, Honda, Peugeot, Volkswagen, Citroen, Chrysler and Fiat, all eager to exploit a potential market of 40,000 vehicles a year.

Mr Croson's Espace burst into flames on what he described as "one of the coldest mornings of the winter", December 15 last year. He said: "My wife and four young children were with me but we did not even get out of our drive before we had to abandon the car because of the awful smell of smoke. Fortunately, we all escaped without injury.

"While I was ringing the AA, a big pall of smoke engulfed the car and neighbours across the road called the fire brigade. The firemen arrived within ten minutes but the car was completely gutted.

"We contacted Renault immediately but the company showed little initial interest in why it had happened. Their concern was whether our insurers wished to pursue the matter.

"Our concern was whether it could happen again but the next time with deadly results. We have had nightmares about the fire and about the doors jamming when it started. Our six-year-old daughter has woken up crying 'The car's not going to burst on fire again, is it?' ".

He has replaced the burnt-out Espace with a Volvo 940 estate with an extra rear-facing seat so he can accommodate all the family.

Eight days later, just before Christmas, another Espace went up in smoke in Peterborough. Margaret Lovell had run the engine of her diesel Espace for a few minutes on a frosty afternoon before reversing up her 25-yard drive and onto a path between the garden and the road to wait for a gap in traffic.

Simon, her husband, said: "At the top of the drive the engine cut out. She tried to restart it but there were no ignition lights, nothing at all.

"It was then that smoke was seen coming out of the bonnet area. She released the inside bonnet catch but could not locate the secondary (safety) one that has to be released outside the vehicle. A passing motorist noticed the smoke and told her to phone the fire brigade, which she did. By the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Safe ways to stifle car fires

Last year they killed 72 people.

Kevin Eason on how to tackle them

CAR fires claimed the lives of 72 people in 1993, according to the latest figures compiled by the Home Office.

Faulty wiring is the chief cause of accidental fires, responsible for more than 9,500 blazes in cars in 1993, the last year for which figures were compiled by police and fire services.

Hot exhausts accounted for another 3,300 of 20,213 accidental car fires that year, while sparks caused another 2,677. Surprisingly, crashes are a minor problem, causing only 869 fires, about twice the number caused by smokers dropping a match or lighted cigarette onto flammable seat covers.

Emergency services warn that drivers and passengers must be alert, or risk being trapped in an inferno which can spread through the passenger cabin in seconds, giving off suffocating fumes.

However a blaze may start, fire chiefs warn motorists to be equipped and ready to act within seconds. Brian Cook, assistant divisional officer at the West Midlands Fire Brigade, says motorists should always carry a fire extinguisher, where possible fitted into the footwell or within reach in the cabin.

If a fire breaks out, he says, this is the procedure to follow:

- ● Pull over to the side of the road and put on hazard lights.
- ● Turn off the ignition to kill the engine. This will also cut off the fuel injection, which could feed a fire.
- ● Get everyone out of the car immediately and on to the pavement or, if on the motorway, up on the embankment out of harm's way. Check first that you are not leaping out into the path of oncoming traffic.
- ● Call the fire brigade immediately and be careful if you decide to tackle the blaze alone.
- ● Release the bonnet-catch inside the car and funnel the extinguisher into the radiator grille to damp down flames before opening the bonnet completely. Then aim at the source of the fire.
- ● Wait until the fire brigade arrives so they can check that embers are not still smouldering in hidden compartments, waiting to ignite again.

Mr Cook added: "Motorists probably do not understand just how quickly a fire can take hold in a car. It can be a terrifying blaze within seconds. They should not start worrying about the fire before everything else. The most important thing is to get the car off the road safely and everyone out and to call the fire brigade."

Makers gear up for price battle

Many popular models will be cheaper this year, reports

Kevin Eason

Carmakers are firing the first shots in a price war that will mean hundreds of pounds being cut from the cost of popular models this year.

The sudden brake on recovery is forcing every manufacturer into an urgent strategy review to win sales in what is likely to be a tough and disappointing market.

That will mean a squeeze on profits for big motor companies — but the bonus of cheap sticker prices and big discounts for buyers.

Honda announced yesterday that its Civic range, made at Swindon in Wiltshire, will start at £11,495, £245 less than the equivalent Escort LX, even though it will have twin airbags, electric sunroof and wood interior trim as standard equipment.

The 1.5i VTEC economy engine car, capable of averaging 45 miles to the gallon, is aimed £640 cheaper than the Escort 1.8 LX turbo-diesel at £11,795.

The pricing is aggressive and aimed at upsetting the balance of power in Britain's motor industry, traditionally dominated by Ford, Vauxhall and Rover. It is, however, just the start of an assault by the home-based Japanese producers and foreign manufacturers bidding for a bigger slice of the lucrative British market, where cars are perceived as being over-priced compared to other European nations.

Seat, the Spanish company owned by Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, will cut prices on new versions of the Ibiza hatchback by up to £600 soon. The car will also have new equipment, including a driver's airbag, power steering and central locking.

A new, 1-litre version of the Ibiza will sell for under £6,400 and will be joined by two bigger-engine models, including a diesel, which will go into showrooms at less than £8,000. Seat is prepared to back its cuts, which will mean across-the-board pricing with no discounts at dealers, with a television advertising campaign costing more than £5 million.

With 175 dealers, the company sold 13,400 vehicles in 1994, 50 per cent more than during the previous year, to become Britain's fastest-growing new car franchise. It is hoping the new strategy will allow 215 dealers to sell more than 25,000 cars next year.

Seat's move follows an appeal by Professor Garel Rhys, at Cardiff University Business School, for carmakers to help fight inflation by cutting prices. Yet Ford, Vauxhall and Rover have put up prices in the past month by about two per cent. They are now likely to tell dealers to start discounting to combat the attack from Honda and other manufacturers.

Stan Cholaj, Seat UK's managing director, said last night: "As a result of the recession, people who use their own money for car purchase want a better deal."

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CURRENT VEHICLE ______ MODEL ______ YEAR ______

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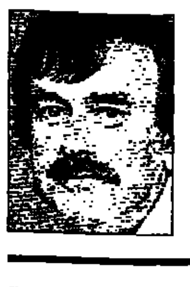
PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT BUT EXCLUDES DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES

'There is more profit in £5 worth of sweets, sandwiches and crisps than in £23.80 of unleaded petrol'

Food for thought on the garage forecourt

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

Pick up a copy of *Dalton's Weekly* and the number of small garages for sale is only outnumbered by examples of that other collapsed dream, the Cornish guesthouse. Yet the garage forecourt is a prime site for television news reporters in search of disgruntled motorists: Petrol? Too expensive. Garage owners? Millionaires.

The reality lies less than a mile from my home, where the owner of a small independent garage that is a lifeline to me has given me a rare insight into the workings of an industry that affects all our pockets.

Let us start with an interesting retailing reality. If I buy 45 litres (10 gallons) of unleaded petrol from this garage, it costs £23.80. The gross profit to the garage will be £1.44, or 3.2p per litre. If, while paying for the fuel, I decide to spend £5 on sandwiches, sweets and crisps, the garage's gross profit on that will be . . . £1.50.

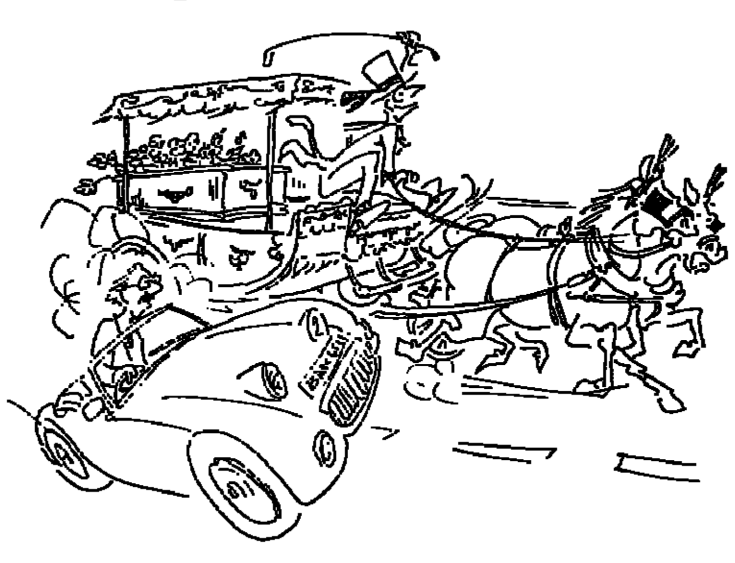
So the short answer to my tongue-in-cheek remarks a few weeks back about garages that have become supermarkets is that the smaller ones can't afford to do anything else.

There is more. Garages are encouraged to sign contracts with petrol companies, usually lasting five years. Whereas the profit on sweets etc is based on a percentage of the retail cost, so that profit increases when the price increases, the gross margin in petrol contracts is a money amount — in this case the aforementioned 3.2p, fixed for five years.

No wonder garage owners worry about inflation. My local, after 25 years on five-year contracts, has switched to a two-year deal which is now nearing its end. When he signed it, the 30,000 litres of fuel which he buys 12 times a year was costing about £10,000. Now, with the profit margin unchanged, 30,000 litres costs him about £14,000. So the cost has risen by 40 per cent while the profit margin has stood still. Obviously, a small business has to overdraw or borrow to raise such sums, so interest charges eat further into the margin.

Compare this with the out-of-town supermarkets, which can buy millions of litres at fixed forward prices, and it is apparent why independent petrol retailers are a shrinking band. In a market economy, it's hard to see what can be done about it, although petrol companies ought to be helping the independents.

They owe motorists that in return for their vast profits, for when my car drops dead I doubt that Mr J Sainsbury PLC will come out and tow it, whereas my local garage will. If it is still there.



A reader asks what has happened to undertaking. I passed the letter to the Obituaries Editor but he has sent it back. Oh, I see . . . undertaking, as in overtaking on the inside.

This crazy notion was mooted by somebody back in 1993, to considerable publicity. Unfortunately, there was hardly any publicity later when Robert Key, then the Transport Minister, said that while "opinion was divided" on undertaking, the ministry was against it on road safety grounds.

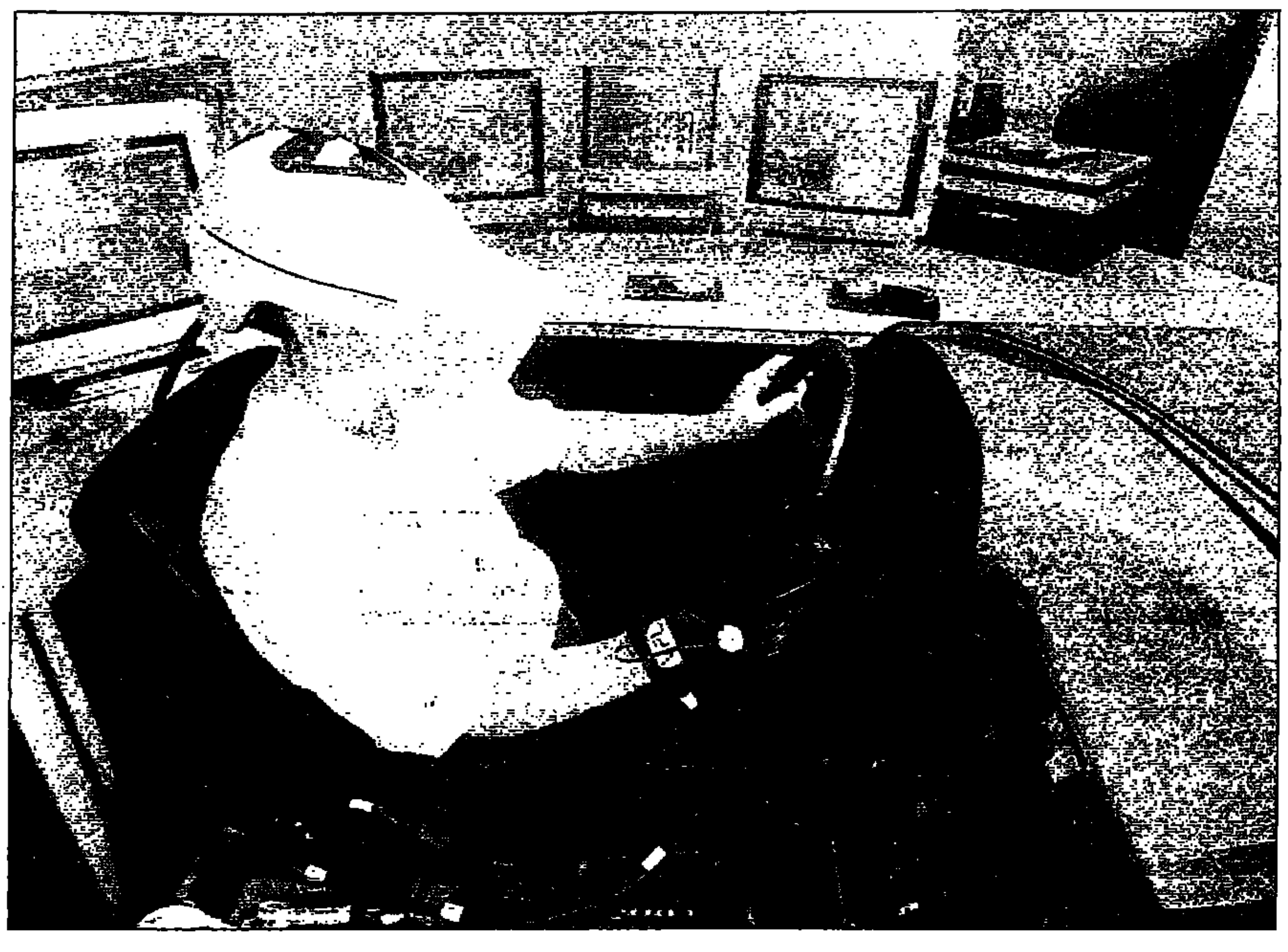
The trouble is that no sooner had consideration been given to undertaking than sundry lunatics started flying past people on the wrong side on motorways, leading to the kind of spectacular crash shown this week on Channel 4's remarkable documentary about driving.

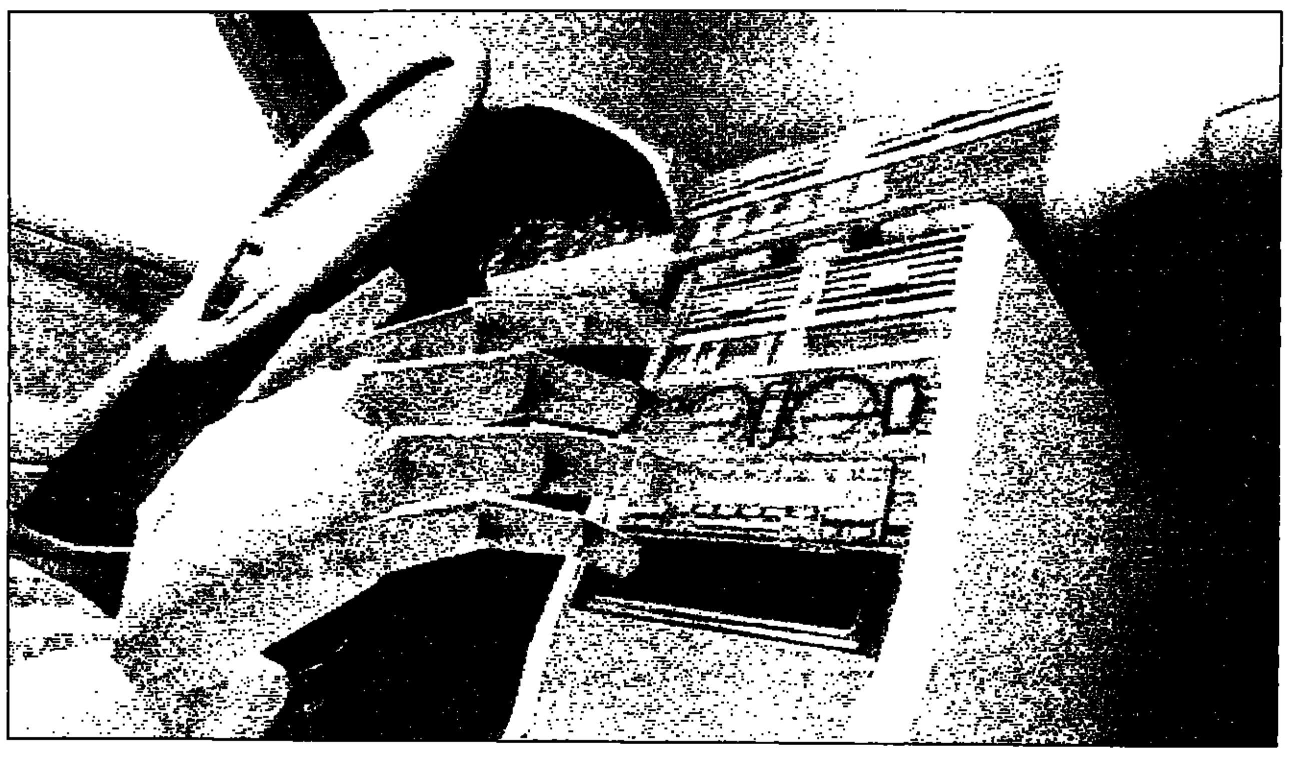
I have just spent an experimental hour in the middle lane of the M4 at exactly 70mph and was undertaken by seven people in that time. Five had to jam on the brakes when discovering lorries in front of them, which is why I was in the middle lane in the first place. The others swung out in front of me. I trust the motorway police will have a blitz on these idiots before they dispatch too many of us to the, er, undertakers.

Fulfilling favourite fantasies

Virtual reality is the new route to the car of your dreams, finds

Vaughan Freeman





LEFT: Mercedes researchers using virtual reality equipment. The computer-linked helmet and glove allow them to change designs and dashboard lay-outs in seconds, not weeks

Car-buyers will soon be able to don computer-linked goggles and enter the fantasy world of virtual reality to conjure up the vehicle of their dreams. Having helped the customer create the ideal car, the dealer will then simply push a button to send the order direct to a car plant, and the vehicle will be built exactly as specified.

Instead of flicking through baffling glossy brochures and trying to construct a mental picture of the car you'd like to buy, it will convincingly materialise around you. When I tried the system I was able, with a burst of a hand-held laser gun, to move dials and controls, and change interior decor — materials and colours — to tailor the car to my needs.

The advance should end the frustration of facing a salesman who has in stock only a gleaming pearlescent white two-door cabriolet version of the model you want, when you want the same car as a metallic blue five-door hatchback.

This is no dream. In America, such virtual reality hardware is already being used to design cars, saving manufacturers hundreds of thousands of dollars in the process. The showroom version is the next step and is being developed now. Dealers in America are clamouring for showroom versions and it is only a matter of time before the technology arrives here.

The first steps have already been taken by Volvo and Rover, who have introduced advanced CD-Rom computers into their dealerships, allowing customers to create the car they want — with all varieties of specification and colour — on a computer screen.

Mercedes-Benz researchers in Stuttgart are also using virtual reality to improve interior ergonomics. Researchers wear a computer-linked helmet and glove, and sit in a car seat with just a steering wheel in front of them. The endless variety of interior designs and dashboard lay-outs are projected within the helmet for the researcher to view. The data glove allows him or her to operate the non-existent controls to see which lay-out works best, and allows endless permutations of dashboard lay-out to be tried without spending a pfennig on mock-ups.

General Motors, which owns Vauxhall, is leading the virtual reality charge with SurfSeg (surface segmentation). Designers working on a new model have traditionally built a mock-up metal body to see if it is viable, and check if doors close and joins meet. Each model takes six weeks to build and costs about £325,000.

Using SurfSeg, GM designers instead create the mock-up on screen. It is a convincing three-dimensional model and they are able to look all round it, under it and inside it, and to strip away the layers of outer metal sheeting to examine every weld, rivet and steel beam.

Doors, bonnets and rear hatches can be opened and closed on screen. SurfSeg instantly highlights any problem areas, such as where an opening door might chafe against a pillar or a panel distort under stress. Usually, such problems only come to light when the design has been turned into a metal model.

Paul Besl, a GM research scientist, says: "SurfSeg can do in 90 seconds what it would take a normal, powerful, computer-aided design system 39 hours to do. It saves time in development and checking, and means we can "see" the car before it is made."

By taking SurfSeg one step further, dealership virtual reality will take the form of empty rooms containing just a driving seat and steering wheel. Fitted with computer-linked goggles, and sitting in the virtual reality room, the customer sees the non-existent "car" materialising convincingly around him or her. Randall Smith, another GM research scientist, says: "We have used this to help design some aspects of our 1997/8 model cars. I would expect to see it coming through to dealers within five years."

Having tried the system, I can vouch that the "invisible car" is extremely convincing. Around the "car" in the darkened virtual reality room are a ceiling and, to the front and at the sides, three walls of projector screens, which capture the images from the battery of computer-controlled projectors placed behind them.

The customer sits in the driving seat wearing a pair of computer-linked wrap-round goggles. The interior of the non-existent car is then projected on to the screens, creating what appears to be a perfect interior all around.

The illusion is so convincing that despite knowing it was all done with mirrors, I found myself reaching to pat the front passenger seat, only for my hand to pass through air; reaching forward to change gear with a lever that wasn't there; and trying to adjust heating and ventilation controls that were a chimera.

As I moved my head, so the computer compensated and adjusted the projected images to maintain the three-dimensional illusion. A burst with my hand-held laser gun allowed me to change instantly the colours of the interior and I could also alter the outside conditions, from a sunny day to overcast, to see how those colours varied.

Another laser burst let me move dials and controls around the fascia to where they suited me best.

For motorists who have already discovered fantasy football, fantasy cricket and computer games, the mix of fantasy dealer and virtual car might mean the best is still to come.

Continued from page 1

time they arrived, flames could be seen with a great deal of smoke. The fire was extinguished but the brigade had to smash the windscreen and remove it to get to the area below the front parcel shelf to damp it down.

"There was extensive fire damage to the front end and the engine compartment was a mess of melted fibreglass and insulation. The majority of the damage was on the nearside close to the battery". Mr Lovell said the vehicle had been regularly serviced in accordance with Renault's recommendations and had given no problems before the fire.

The Lovells' insurers, Equity Red Star, decided the Espace was too fire-damaged to be repaired and it was collected from Peterborough by Warley Auto Salvage of Brentwood, Essex.

It was not the first that Fred Ellwood, the salvage company boss, had seen. "I have had two others with identical fire damage come in within the last few weeks. I am particularly interested because my daughter, who has three young children, owns one. The fires had all started in the engine compartment, close to the battery".

His information was passed to Croson who, now aware of four fires, contacted Renault again. "I was trying to gain some acknowlegement that there may be a safety problem and lives could be at risk," he said. "The company refused to acknowlege there was a problem but I could not accept that so many vehicles could catch fire without a link".

'The engine compartment was a mess of melted fibreglass'

Mr Croson also alerted the Leicester office of Norwich Union, his insurance company, which began inquiries. When staff contacted head office, they discovered engineers were already investigating. "We are aware that there has been more than one fire of this type. We are investigating, together with forensic experts," a company spokesman said.

Norwich Union had been tipped off at a meeting of the insurance company engineers' technical committee, held at the Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre at Thatcham, Berkshire. Ken Roberts, director of research, said: "It was raised at a regular meeting of chief engineers to discuss technical developments, unusual problems and administrative matters concerning the Department of Transport. We heard stories that something in the front compartment was working loose and chafing against wiring".

The fires were, in fact, being caused by the closeness of the fuel filter outlet to electrical wiring. Diesel fuel needs pre-heating on cold days by an electrical coil before it enters the cylinders, to prevent it thickening and becoming less combustible and to ensure the car starts immediately. In a few cases, the outlet was overheating wiring harnesses and causing a short circuit.

Renault said yesterday: "The modificiation, which will take a matter of minutes, involves installing a fuse in the engine's diesel pre-heating system and fitting a plastic retaining clip".

The company said the fuse had been fitted "as a precautionary measure" to new Espace turbo diesels since last June. It could not explain why earlier models were not recalled then or why Mr Croson's concerns were not tackled more promptly.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

Regent Street closed southbound from Glasshouse Street for resurfacing from 8am tomorrow to 6am Monday, diversions via Conduit Street.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct until end of 1995.

A219 Putney Bridge: one lane each way until June.

A316 Twickenham Bridge, near Richmond: one lane each way until end of March.

A501 Kings Cross one-way system: lane closures, 24-hour restrictions; long delays.

A1 East Finchley: lane restrictions on Falloden Way and Lyttleton Road; regular delays.

A3 Kingston Bypass: southbound single lane between Shannon's Corner and the New Malden exit slip, until Feb 27; severe delays

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): contraflow causes regular delays.

M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): widening with contraflow.

A3 Guildford, Surrey: contraflow between Abbotswood and Cathedral interchange, until end of May.

A329 Bracknell, Berkshire: works at Met Office roundabout until June.

A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Westhampnett and Whyke roundabouts until May.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

M4 Avon J20-21 (Almondsbury/Aust): works affecting both carriageways until May 1996.

M32 Avon J1-2 (Filton/Eastville): lane restrictions both ways; peak-time delays.

M5 Gloucestershire J11-12 (Cheltenham/Gloucester): contraflow until September.

M5 Devon near J27 (Tiverton): contraflow and northbound entry slip closed until end of February.

A419 Swindon, Wiltshire: contraflow between Turnpike roundabout and A361 junction, with slip road onto B4141 Hyde Rd closed; until end of March.

A348 Dorset: works at Longham, temporary lights; long delays likely.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M6 West Midlands J4a-6 (near Birmingham): contraflow until March.

M5 West Midlands J3-4 (south-west of Birmingham): lane closures until end of month.

A500 Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: closed between Hanford and City Road interchange from 7pm today to 6am Monday; diversions.

A1(M) near Blyth, Nottinghamshire: contraflow between Harworth and A614 until March.

● **NORTH**

M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm/Croft): works near Thelwall viaduct until May. Southbound entry slip closed at J21.

M62 West Yorkshire J25-J26 (Brighouse/Chain Bar): contraflow and 50mph restriction; westbound entry slip closed at J25; until March 24.

M18 South Yorkshire J3-4 (Doncaster Area): contraflow and lane restrictions. Northbound entry slip closed at J3. Until April.

M62 Humberside J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Langham): contraflow and eastbound entry slip at J34 closed until end of May.

A1M County Durham: between Bowburn and Carville, contraflow two lanes each way and 50mph limit until April.

● **WALES**

Cardiff: Wales play England at Cardiff Arms Park today; closures 11am-6pm at Westgate Street between Park Street and Castle Street junctions, Womanby Street, Quay Street, Guildhall Place, Scott Road and part of King Edward 7th Avenue.

M4 Gwent J23-22 (Magor/Newhouse): lane restrictions and contraflow between Magor and Roglet until June.

A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: temporary lights and short-term closures until end July.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow on Saltings viaduct until June; long delays.

● **SCOTLAND**

M90 Tayside J8-J9 (Arlary/Mulmont): contraflow.

M8 Lothian J1 (Newbridge): restrictions between J1 and Edinburgh City Bypass.

Edinburgh: width restrictions on High Street between North and South bridges until end of June.

Glasgow: Paisley Road West, one lane each way between Portman Street and West Street and on M8 eastbound exit slip.

A741 Renfrew Road, Paisley, Strathclyde: closed northbound, contraflow Southbound.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**

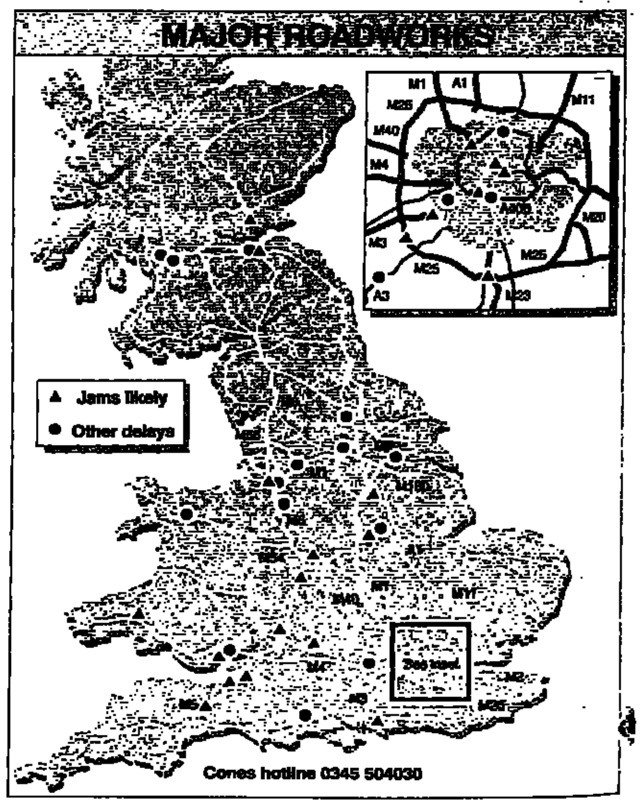
A6 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Glenshane Road, Cashel, until March.

A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Road at junction with Ballymoney Bypass until September.

A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Road until April.

Downpatrick, Co Down: Market St one-way between Patrick's Avenue and Irish St.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

NEWS SUMMARY

MPs oppose fuel rise

MPs would refuse to back huge increases in petrol prices to combat pollution, according to a survey by the AA. The organisation asked 100 MPs what they thought about proposals from the Royal Commission on the Environment to double the cost of fuel and discovered 70 opposed the plan. Eighty-two per cent want a reduction in journeys by car but 73 per cent said that jacking up petrol prices would be "a vote-loser".

Euro car sales up

Even if the recovery is running out of steam here, sales of new cars are reviving across Europe. Figures from the European Association of Car Manufacturers show sales ahead 3.6 per cent in the European Union with France, Denmark, Greece, Italy and Sweden showing the biggest gains. Sales of Rovers were up three per cent, Jaguars by 0.2 per cent while Volkswagen remains the number one carmaker in Europe.

Daewoo's UK debut

The first cars from Daewoo, the South Korean manufacturer which is little known here, have arrived in Britain. The shipment of 4,500 cars was unloaded this week at Portbury dock in Bristol, with 1,200 due to be sold in British showrooms. Daewoo is promising two models, the Nexia and Espero, which will be sold through exclusive Daewoo out-of-town shopping malls later this year.

Latin sales bonanza

Two of Ford's most popular European vehicles could win sales worth $700 million (£466 million) in annual exports to South America. The company has shipped 2,000 Mondeos, made in Belgium, to Brazil, Argentina and Chile, while 3,800 Fiestas have been shipped from Ford's plant in Valencia, Spain, to Brazil.

هكذا من الاهالي

هكذا من الاطلاع

A tale of two learners — one apparently destined to fail, the other who just keeps on enjoying success

Here endeth the lessons

Kevin Eason meets a priest whose salvation lay in an automatic

The Rev David Guest shrank from the object as though it had been sent by the very devil himself. His body tensed as he confessed: "Oh no. I'm sorry. I just can't do it. It would be too much for me."

Yet the object of his dread moved quite smoothly from second to third and up to fourth; a simple manual gearshift could surely hold no terrors so great that a man would refuse even a single attempt to manipulate it?

But then most drivers have not suffered the same traumas as Mr Guest. You see, that gear shift — a no-nonsense H-gate, five-speed box fitted to millions of cars — was the obstacle between him and a driving licence for 17 years.

Through nearly 600 lessons, he pushed and pulled and still never fathomed what he was supposed to do with it. Call it lack of co-ordination or mechanical dyslexia; whatever it was, even the power of prayer was not enough to prevent the pain of those lessons, the equivalent of 25 days spent at the wheels of Fiestas, Metros and Datsuns with as much hope of passing a driving test as a camel has of getting through the eye of a biblical needle.

> 'When I changed, I looked at my feet, not at the road'

"I realised that the reason I was not getting any better was the fact that I could not co-ordinate in any way the clutch and gearbox," he confessed at his home, round the corner from his church, Holy Trinity in Chester. "I spent years unable to figure out why I should need a gearstick, never mind knowing when I was supposed to change.

"When I changed, I realised I was looking at my feet instead of the road and that led to some awful experiences."

So awful, in fact, that some instructors shook hands after the first lesson, waved goodbye to Mr Guest, and never returned. One lesson in Hampshire ended abruptly when Mr Guest was confronted by a combine harvester on a rural road. But an emergency manoeuvre to prevent both pupil and instructor being minced and baled required an intimate knowledge of all three pedals, knowledge that was clearly beyond Mr Guest. The result was an unplanned journey through a hedge into a field of cows.

"It was always like that," he said. "I would be stranded on crossroads looking down at the gearstick and wondering what to do. I became very good at toppling cyclists off their bikes, and once I almost knocked down a lollipop lady. She shouted quite loudly at me from the bonnet of the car."

So our curate was condemned to a lifetime on foot, his bulky 6ft 4in frame a familiar sight in the Blacon district of Chester, plodding from house to house to visit his flock. He had spent about £5,000 on lessons to no avail, not even daring to apply for a test, knowing his size 11 feet would always stand between him and pressing the clutch pedal at the right moment.

He had almost decided to give up, until he took the motoring equivalent of the road to Damascus, the street to the British School of Motoring in Chester. Their vision was practically blinding in its simplicity: abandon the gearstick and drive an automatic.

He jumped into a BSM Vauxhall Corsa with automatic shift and, admittedly 40 lessons later, he passed.

But the new-found confidence of being a fully-fledged driver was still not enough to tempt him into one more confrontation with the gearshift for the benefit of *The Times*. We wanted him to demonstrate what problems he had, so that we could offer some advice that would help him further his driving career, even perhaps release him from the tyranny of automatics to the joy and freedom of the stick shift. We even took him the latest Rover 100 — the sort of car he spent hours in over the years — to try out.

But it was not to be. He was happy to spoon his frame into the passenger seat, but all attempts to get him to drive failed.

"I am too big for these small cars anyway," he said. "I think that was part of the problem in the past — my knees were always jammed up against the steering wheel and I couldn't move around properly.

"I'm not bothered about driving a manual gearbox car. I can enjoy the freedom now of travelling wherever I like. My family is down in Brighton, and that used to take five or six hours by train changing in London or at Crewe. Now I can drive down there. I will be able to get around the parish easily and down to the theatre, which I love, in Stratford-upon-Avon. Passing my test will change my life."

So, after 17 years, 632 heart-breaking hours of effort and the shattered nerves of a dozen instructors, the waiting is over for Mr Guest. Truly, here endeth the lessons.

CHRIS HARRIS

The Rev David Guest spent 17 years and £5,000 on lessons — some instructors never returned after the first lesson

The driver who loves taking tests

From a road roller to a Chieftain tank, you name it, he can drive it

Clive Greenaway just loves taking driving tests. He has taken, and passed, at least one a year for the past 20 years and now he is claiming a record as the first person in Britain to qualify to drive every category of vehicle on a driving licence.

His obsession with examinations culminated when he passed the test to drive a road roller. He is now qualified to drive: a car, a motorcycle, a three-wheeler, a van, a lorry, a bus, a lawn mower, an amphibious vehicle, a vehicle adapted for the disabled, an articulated lorry, military vehicles including a ferret scout car and a Chieftain tank and, of course, a road roller.

In fact, to feed his obsession he joined the Army a year after passing his car test at the age of 17. That way he could get to grips with heavy goods vehicles before he reached the required civilian age of 21. And when he left three years later he became — what else? — a driving instructor, Britain's youngest at the time.

Mr Greenaway, now 37, runs the interestingly-named Impact driving centre in Poole, Dorset, but boasts of not having had an accident in his 20 years on the road. "I daren't think how much it has cost over the years, but taking a test always serves as a reminder of how my pupils feel before their tests," he says.

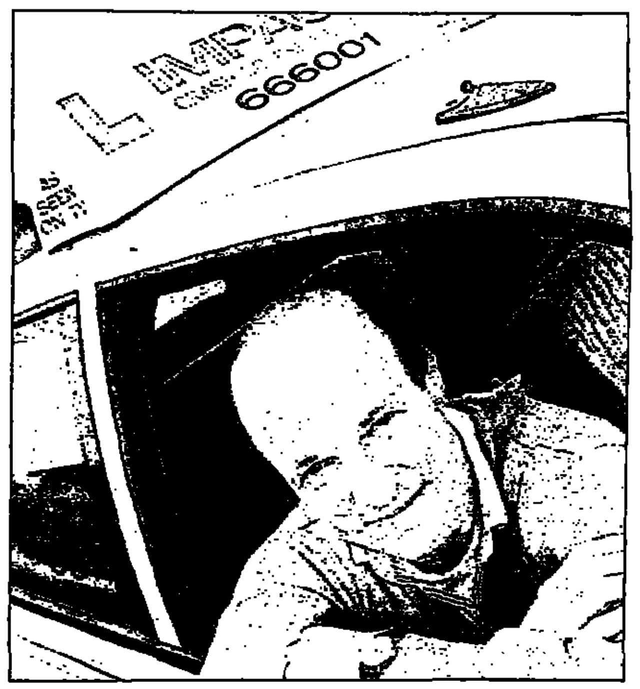
In addition to his impressive list of licences, Mr Greenaway has taken the Institute of Advanced Motorists' test, the Police League of Safe Drivers, the National Drivers' Association (gold level), the DoT approved instructor (grade 6), Diploma in Driving Instruction, the special "Cardington A" test for driving examiners, skid control tests, high performance tests and four-wheel drive tests.

He says he first became fascinated with vehicles because he was brought up in a family without a car. He learnt to drive a dumper truck on a building site even before he took his first test, and has never looked back.

But he has a confession. "Yes — I did fail one test, but I don't like to talk about it. It's depressing."

Nor has his driving been without incident: "I was out teaching a rather slow old lady one day on what we call a nursery road when a bunch of lads in a Cortina came past in the opposite direction. They stopped just down the road and then put it in reverse to overtake us. That's where all my tests came in handy. Whatever happens, the instructor must stay calm."

ALAN COPPS



Clive Greenaway: claims a record

Up the Amazon without a winch

Ten mud-spattered hopefuls vie for a place on Britain's Camel Trophy team

IT IS probably one of the greatest off-road adventures in the world, yet only the keenest of the UK's off-road buffs will be familiar with the 15-year-old Camel Trophy competition. That is particularly surprising in Britain, not only because the organisers reckon that Land Rovers are the only vehicles up to the job, but also because the UK has such a good team record in the competition.

This year, in May, the adventure will take the participants on the Mundo Maya (World of the Mayas) '95 trek, passing through Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras in turbo-diesel engined Land Rover Discoverys. The organisers of the Trophy say that the competition "provides amateur enthusiasts with a once in a lifetime opportunity to combine the art of survival with one of the most gruelling four-wheel-drive expeditions in the world".

For once the hype is true. Bob Ives and his brother Joe, full-time farmers from Hampshire, made up Britain's winning team in the Amazon in 1989 — "a quite incredible three weeks", Bob says.

The Camel bug obviously bites hard, as the Ives brothers have kept in close contact with the Trophy since their win. Bob has been a marshall on every event since, accompanying the competitors to the four corners of the globe. Joe has been the manager of the UK team since 1991, and spent months preparing for the second selection weekend this month. Held in the grounds of Eastnor Castle near Ross on Wye, a long-time Land Rover proving ground, the three-day event welcomed teams from the UK, Belgium and Scandinavia.

Ten hopefuls from each country (20 from Scandinavia) spent from midday on Friday until midday on Sunday undergoing various tasks in the quagmire of Eastnor's grounds. These ranged from the all-important driving to an assault course, bridge building and orienteering. Interestingly, as much time was given to a "winching" test as to actual off-road driving. Organisers assessed teams of five (usually a mix of all the nationalities, to put a premium on communication skills) on their ability to winch out a Discovery jammed in an impossibly mud-bound position, a highly likely occurrence on the Mundo Maya trip.

When I caught up with the ten dirt-spattered UK hopefuls on Saturday evening at their evening meal, they had the collective appearance of an exhausted but happy mountain rescue team. Just four would go on to the final selection stage in Istanbul.

Tim Whittle, a 34-year-old engineer from Somerset, had always seen the Camel trophy as a goal. "I never thought it was realisable — I'd applied before and got no reply — but this year the letter came." Tim's luck was in. By the following afternoon he had been selected.

While the teams were enjoying a well-earned meal, Bob Ives showed me around the Camel Trophy specification Discoverys, ready for their fifth year on the event. The basic five-door TDi is modified, albeit minimally. The cabin gains a roll cage, which is also used as an anchor for the massive, spotlight-clad roof rack. Underneath there is an extra steering guard, and the nose houses a bull bar and 8,000lb electric winch, powered by twin batteries.

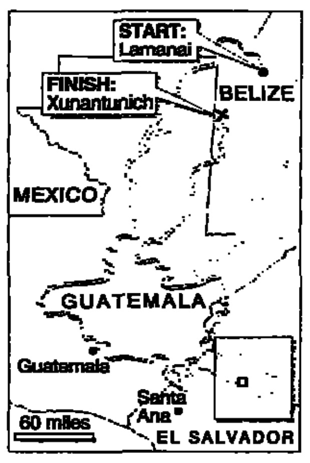
ASIDE from the engine's air intake being raised to roof level, to allow rivers to be forded, that's about the sum of the changes.

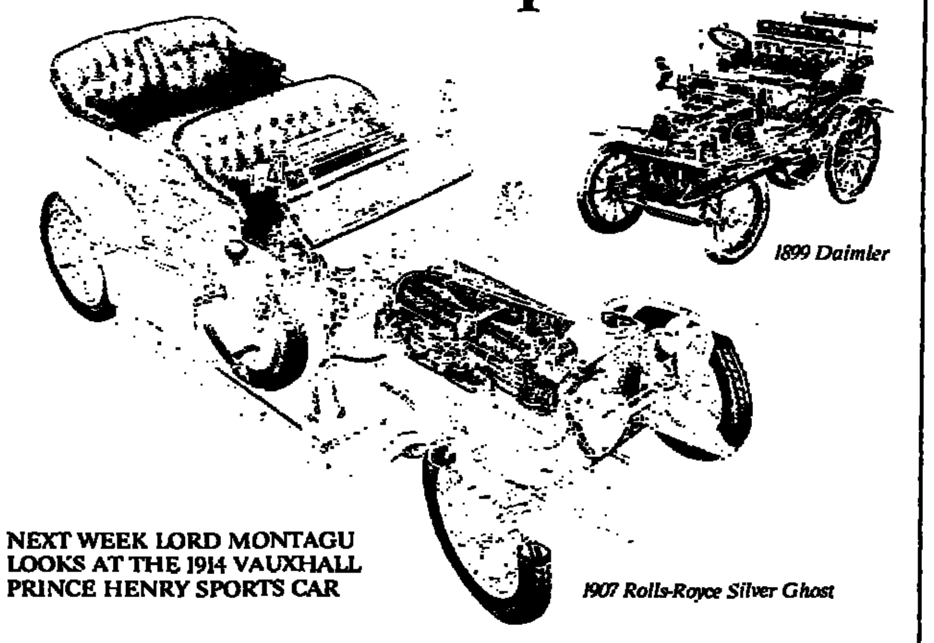
By Sunday, the selectors had chosen the UK team. Aside from Tim Whittle, Michael Oxley, 27, a commodities broker from Leigh-on-Sea, and his flatmate Rob Connor, 28, an automotive engineer, had made it. A 34-year-old Cardiff-based agricultural technician, Trefor Coles, made up the four.

Let's hope this year the British team gets the coverage it deserves, and that Land Rover starts to shout rather more loudly about its remarkable Camel Trophy heritage.

HILTON HOLLOWAY

A Camel trophy competitor demonstrates the sort of trouble a chap can get into





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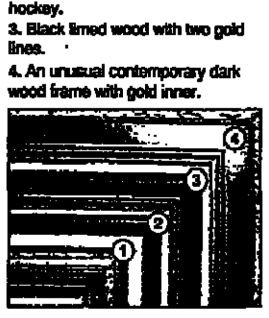

THE TIMES
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91J 320i M 4D SE E36 Black, PAS, ESR, FEW, Alloys, Fogs 14T £15,495
93L 318i A 4D SE E36 Samara Beige, Airbag, ESR, Alloys, ABS, PAS ...4T £17,995
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BMW

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HOW DOES IT WORK?

The anti-lock braking system

IN AN EMERGENCY stop, ABS — anti-lock braking system — cuts the stopping distance in wet or dry weather. Crucially, it also enables the driver to continue braking or steer around any obstacle or accident while keeping the car stable. *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

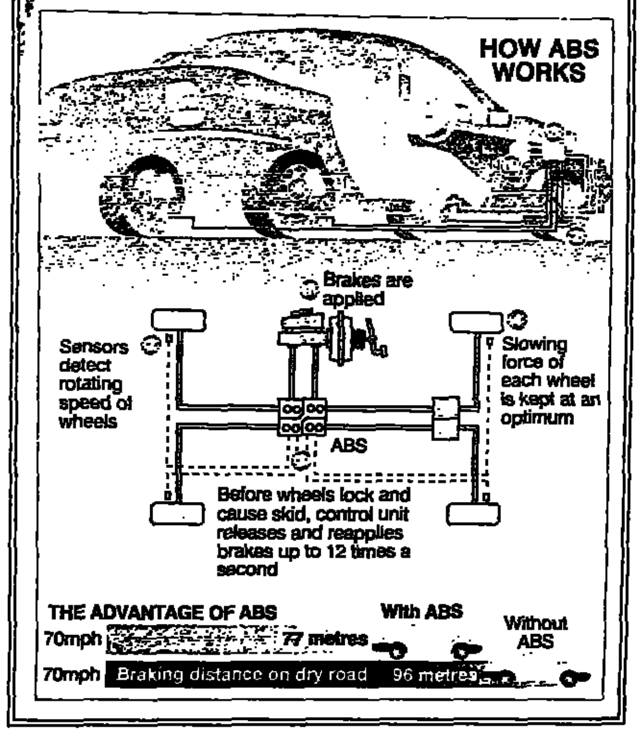
In a car without ABS hard braking, especially on a slippery road, can cause all four wheels to lock up and any attempt at steering, except into the skid to try to remedy it, is not advised. Once locked, the braking effect is lost and the car slides.

As a car's brakes are applied the wheels are slowed from their normal running speed. For maximum braking performance the wheels need to be turning at about 20-30 per cent less than the road speed.

With ABS, electronic sensors detect the rotating speed of each wheel. As braking slows the wheels to the critical 20-30 per cent value of road speed and before they lock, the ABS control unit momentarily interrupts and releases the braking force, which allows the wheels to gain speed again and avoid a skid. The control unit then allows the brake force to be re-applied before releasing it again. This happens up to 12 times a second, ensuring the slowing force of each wheel is kept at an optimum.

On a dry road this reduces the stopping distance by around 20 per cent. In the wet the benefits are even greater.

All the driver will be aware of is a pumping, vibrating feel through the foot brake as the braking pressure is electronically relieved and then re-applied.


HOW ABS WORKS
Brakes are applied
Sensors detect rotating speed of wheels
Slowing force of each wheel is kept at an optimum
ABS
Before wheels lock and cause skid, control unit releases and reapplies brakes up to 12 times a second
THE ADVANTAGE OF ABS
With ABS
Without ABS
70mph
77 metres
70mph
Braking distance on dry road
96 metres

Terry Pattinson's money was burning a hole in his anorak when he went to buy a new car

Get smart — and buy for a tidy sum

Dressing down: old anorak, jeans, trainers and a woollen hat cut no ice in the saleroom

Dressing up: "Compo" joins the smart set to prove that image is everything

When you are told that your old Montego is terminally ill and needs £800 worth of repairs a quick remedy is needed: How about a new car?

Leaving my dear old D-reg behind after eight years' loyal service was agonising. It looked so pathetic in the knacker's yard of the garage. The fact that I would never see D662 SEV again brought a lump to my throat.

But with money burning a hole in my pocket I thought I would help to kick-start the economy by assisting the car trade. Unfortunately, I was in a bit of a mess. Dressed in an old anorak, jeans, trainers and a woollen hat I embarked on my car-buying mission.

Funny, isn't it, how fantasies can quickly crumple when faced with reality? I thought, perhaps naively, that salespersons would fall over themselves to flog me a car of my dreams. Any car.

No such luck. If you are dressed as though you have emerged from a cardboard box on the Thames embankment they don't want to know.

Don't get me wrong. Nobody likes high-powered pushy sales reps trying to harass them when they are trying to browse. But I had money to spend and wanted attention.

At Peugeot, VW and Vauxhall dealerships I was totally ignored in my "Compo" gear. I had to ask the receptionists if there was anybody around willing to sell me a new car.

Salespersons then appeared like a genie from a bottle, but were not so enthusiastic when I mentioned part-exchange. Particularly an ancient Montego with rust and a burned-out computer. The prospect of being lumbered with a clapped-out car did not appear to excite dealers in the slightest. Could I bring it in for them to look at?

I explained that I had said goodbye to it forever and that it was in a car graveyard two miles away. Would they like to see it for themselves? After all, it was only two miles away.

The man at Vauxhall said he could not view it that day and the woman at VW said it would have to be dealt with on the telephone.

The man from Vauxhall said he could not give me an offer without seeing it. Meanwhile, how about a test drive in a new Astra or Corsa with a view to purchase?

Er, no sir. The only Corsa was on the revolving stand, and the only Astra demo model was "jammed in" by other vehicles. And it was pouring with rain. How about next week? Brochures? Er, not today, sir. The Astra and Corsa brochures have all gone. They are very popular vehicles, you know.

On my way out I was ticked off by another salesman for parking my second car, a Yugo Tempo, too near their showroom window, thus blocking the view of real motor cars (no jokes, please).

The VW manager telephoned later to offer me £500 for the Montego without seeing it. He clearly did not want to get wet. It was "take it or leave it", in spite of the fact that I was interested in buying a new Golf or Polo.

At Peugeot the salesman was out. Could I call back two hours later? Pity, I was keen on the much-advertised 306. Sorry, nobody was available to give me a quote for the Montego or offer me a test drive. In desperation I stood outside the Ford dealership. My hat was soaked and even the anorak was about to leak. My trainers had taken in water and I was cold and depressed. I was beginning to think that I would have to advertise in classifieds for a new car.

After five minutes a smartly-dressed salesman called Ian came out and asked me, suspiciously, if he could be of assistance. I think he felt that one of his cars on the forecourt was in danger of being stolen from under his nose.

"Actually, I would like to buy a new car," I said, "but I have a clapped-out Montego to part-exchange." Ian took pity on me and invited me into the warmth of the reception area and offered me a coffee. He was on the ball. Within minutes I was surrounded with beautiful brochures of the Ford range and told all about "Options". He also drove off, in spite of the monsoon, to inspect my Montego. His manager offered me £750 and with "Profile" points from Barclaycard I can get another £750 discount on top of that.

I will soon be the proud owner of a Fiesta Equipe for around £7,700 "on the road" after a day of trying to buy on impulse.

There may well be a recession in the motor trade, but I was left with the distinct impression that some firms seem to think that they are doing you a favour when you want to put money in their pockets.

They should also realise that appearances can be deceptive. When my Yugo burns out I will shop around in a dinner jacket and bow tie.

Engine for a clean machine

TICKFORD, has patented designs for a five-valve engine. The Buckinghamshire motor-engineering specialist says the design, derived from its Grand Prix racing technology, will make road-going engines more powerful and cleaner.

Heartbreak

THERE was no hope of help when a desperate man called the RAC. He phoned the organisation's legal department to ask whether they dealt with divorce cases. His wife had, he said, committed adultery in the back of the family car. The RAC's legal experts patiently explained they were better at mechanical than marital breakdowns.

That's the 364th RAC charge this year for that
MILK
GED

- *THE Volvo 850 was the safest car named in a* Which? *survey. The Consumers' Association magazine checked 140 cars to find the car passed all tests in 50 critical safety areas.*

BMW hike

BMW is putting up prices. The Münich company is raising sticker prices by an average 2.25 per cent from March 1. The range will start at £13,650 for the 316i.

Best diesel?

ROVER has launched new diesel engines for its 600 series. The company claims its turbo-charged engine is the best-performing two-litre diesel on the market.

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94M	C220 Sport	Tourmaline	7T	£30,950	93L	300D Est	Brilliant Silver	25T	£24,950
94M	C220D Eleg	Brill. Silver	13T	£22,250	93L	E300D Est	Almandine	9T	£28,950
94M	C250D Eleg	Imperial Red	8T	£24,250	94L	E320 Cab	Almandine	20T	P.O.A.
94M	C280 Eleg	Pearl Blue	11T	£26,950	93L	E320 Cpe	Nautic Blue	13T	£38,950
94M	C36 AMG	Blue Black	8T	£POA	93L	SL280	Imperial Red	8T	£47,950
94L	E200	Pearl Blue	10T	£22,950	94L	SL500	Pearl Blue	12T	£68,950
94L	E200	Almandine	13T	£20,950	91H	500SEL	Blue Black	68T	£26,950

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94L	C180 Eleg	Pearl Blue	11T	£20,950	93K	220E	Pearl Blue	28T	£21,750
94L	C180 Eleg	Brill. Silver, Auto	10T	£20,950	93K	280E	Smoke Silver	30T	£24,950
94L	C180 Eleg	Imperial Red	9T	£20,950	91H	300E	Brilliant Silver	31T	£20,950
94L	C180 Eleg	Beryl	10T	£20,950	94M	E300D	Azurite Blue	8T	£27,950
94L	C180 Eleg	Nautic Blue	9T	£20,950	94L	E200T	Imperial Red, RFS	15T	£24,750
94L	C180 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	5T	£20,950	94M	E200T	Azurite Blue	7T	£24,950
94L	C200 Eleg	Pearl Blue	10T	£22,950	93L	E280T	Pearl Blue	24T	£31,950
94M	C220 Eleg	Rosewood	10T	£23,950	93K	320TE	Pearl Grey	26T	£34,950
94L	C220 Eleg	Pearl Blue	13T	£24,750	94L	E220	Dark Blue	8T	£23,950
94L	C220D Esprit	Midnight Blue	9T	£19,950	94L	E220C	Imperial Red	12T	£27,950
94M	C250D	Auto Imperial Red	11T	£22,950	93L	E280	Pearl Blue	23T	£27,950
94L	C280 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	11T	£27,950	92J	300CE 24V	Brilliant Silver	20T	£31,950
91J	190E 1.8	Nautic Blue	25T	£12,950	91H	420SEC	Anthracite Grey	46T	£29,950
93K	190E 1.8	Signal Red	27T	£15,950	94L	SL280	Blue Black	10T	£49,950
92K	190E 2.0	Brilliant Silver	39T	£15,950	89G	300SL	Signal Red	25T	£31,950
92J	190D 2.5	Brilliant Silver	35T	£16,950	92J	300SL 24V	Almandine Red	18T	£44,950
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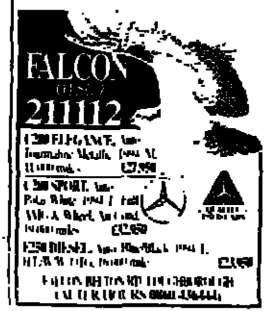
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94L	C220 Man Polar White, Air Con.	10T	£21,995	94L	280TE Auto White	9T	£34,995
91J	190E Man Black, 8 Holes	22T	£14,995	92J	200TE A Smoke Silver	43T	£18,995
93K	190E 1.8 A Midnight	30T	£14,995	92K	200TE Auto White	20T	£21,995
93L	190E 1.8 A Signal	12T	£16,995	93L	E280T Malachite, Hi Spec	19T	£34,995
94L	190E 2.5D Auto Silver	11T	£18,995	89F	280SE Man Anthracite	32T	£11,995
92K	200E Auto Midnight	31T	£18,795	91J	300CE Auto Blue Black	45T	£27,995
92K	200E Man Signal Red	30T	£15,995	93K	320CE Auto Pearl Grey, Hi Spec	27T	£37,995
93K	280E Auto Beryl, Metallic	18T	£20,995	93K	300SL Signal	16T	£49,995
94L	E220 Auto Pearl Blue	8T	£24,995	92K	300SL 24V Beryl	19T	£52,995
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94L	S280 Silver, Face-Lift Model, ESR, ESC, HLWW, 8H Alloys	15T	£39,950
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94L C180 Eleg Auto	9T £20,950	93L E220 Auto, Met, A/C		£24,250
94M C200 Eleg Auto	3T £24,950	94M E220 Auto, Met	6T	£24,995
94M C220 AMG Styling	5T £26,250	94L E220TE Auto, RFS	6T	£28,950
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91H 300E Auto, Met, Alloys	42T £18,450	94L E320 Estate Hi Spec		£39,450
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94 C200 Eleg Auto, Tourmaline, 5T	£26,995
94 190E 1.8 Auto, White, 13.5T	£16,495
94 E220 Coupe, Auto, Almandine, 8.5T	£33,995
94 E220 Auto, Almandine, 6T	£25,995
94 E220 Auto, Dark Blue, 8T	£25,995
93 200E Auto, Dark Blue, 14.7T	£19,995
92 230E Auto, Anthracite, 20T	£21,495
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S320 (L) 94 Almandine/Cream Hide, Climate, Closing Aids, 8 Holes	8T	£45,950
300SE (J) 91 Blue/Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, R/Hd Rests	34T	£21,950
300SE (G) 89 Pearl Grey/Grey Cloth, Auto, Alloys, Sunroof	35T	£16,950
E320 Coupe (L) 94 Nautic/Cream Hide, Air Con, E/Seat, 8 Hole Alloys	12T	£39,950
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E280T (L) 93 Silver/Grey Cloth, Auto, R/Seat, Cruise	14T	£29,950
300TD (J) 92 Nautic Blue/Grey Cloth, Air Con, Rear Seat	38T	£22,950
230TE (K) 92 Pearl Blue/Grey Cloth, Auto, R/Seat, Walnut, 8 Holes	26T	£23,950
C250D Esprit (M) 94 Blue Black/Black Cloth, E/Sunroof, F/Armrest	3T	£21,950
C220 Sport (M) 94 Silver/Black Cloth, Alloys, R/Headrests, Sun Roof	10T	£23,950
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94M E300D EST.	Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, AC, R.F.St, 8AW	14T	£32,995
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94L E220	White, Blue Cloth, AT, 8AW, WV, RHR, FAR	6T	£23,495
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94M C200 ESPRIT	Black, Black Cloth, Auto, ESR, EW, Stereo	7T	£21,995
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93K 190E 2.0	Nautic Blue, Cream Cloth, Auto, 8AW, ESR, RHR, EW	13T	£18,495
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300SE 93K Blue Black, 27T	£37,995	C180 Eleg 94L Imp. Red, 13T	£20,495
S280 94L Nautic Blue, Met, 13T	£35,995	C180 Eleg 93L Polar White, 10T	£19,995
300TD 93K Almandine Met 47T	£23,995	C180 Esprit 94L Blue Black, 4T	£19,750
230TE 93L Pearl Blue Met, 22T	£24,995	C180 Classic 94L Red, 12T	£17,995
300CE 92K Beryl Met, 23T	£28,995	190D 2.5 91J Pearl Blue, 40T	£15,495
250D 92K Arctic White, 40T	£18,995	190E 2.0 93L Blue Black, 23T	£18,495
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90H 300E Auto Lthr, Air	£19,995
92K 280E Auto 8 Hole Alloys	£21,995
92K 230TE Auto Slvr Alys RFS	£22,995
91J 300TE Auto Pearl, Air Con	£19,995
92J 300SE Blue Black, Leather	£22,995
88F 420SEL Auto A/Con, Lthr	£19,995
86C 500SEC Auto A/c Full Spec	£16,995

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'M' Reg	E220 Cabriolet Azurite, Hide, 'A', H.F.Seats, 8 Holes, A/Bags, Alarm, CD	500 miles £41,995
92J	300SL Blue Black, Cr Hide, 'A', R/Seat, ADS, ASR, A/Con, C/C, 8H, A/Bag, CD	8T £48,995
93L	300SL Beryl, Cr Hide, 'A', A/Bags, H.F.Seats, R/Seats, 8 Holes, R/St	9T £49,995
88F	420SE Anthracite, Cr. Hide, 'A' EF Seat, HF Seats, C/C, Alloys, RHR, R/St	27T £19,995
93L	E320 24V Coupe Malachite, Cr. Hide, 5 Sp 'A' A/Bag, Spt/Line, 8H, Orth/Seat, AMG	13T £38,995
90G	300CE Coupe Impala, Cream, 'A' Spt Line, Alloys, C/C, HW, Wal, EFL, R/St	48T £21,995
94L	E300D 24V Pearl Blue, Grey Hide, 'A', A/C, E.F.Sts, H.F.Seats, 8H, A/Bs, C/C, R/St	8T £38,995
94M	E300D 24V Estate B/Black, Cr Hide, 'A', R.F.Seat, C/Con, HLWW, A/Bags, Wal, R/St	5T £32,995
93K	300D Nautic blue, grey, 'A', A/Bag, Walnut, RHR, R/St	9,000 miles only £22,995
92K	280E Pearl grey Cr. Hide, 5Spd 'A', Spt Line, 8 Holes, A/Bag, Wal, HLWW, CD	17T £25,995
94L	E200 24V Almandine, Grey, 5Spd 'A', Wal, A/Bags, HLWW, OTG, Alarm, Fsr, R/St	9T £28,495
93L	280TE 24V Estate B/Silver, Grey, 'A', R.F.Seat, A/Con, 8 Holes, A/Bag, Wal, R/L	21T £28,995

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C200 Sport 94 Imperial Red, black sport cloth, auto (M) Our own car £24,495
C220 Diesel Esprit 94 Pearl Blue Met. blue cloth, 5 speed, electric sunroof/front windows, split rear seat. (M) Our own car £22,995
C250 Diesel Elegance 93 Pearl Blue Met. grey cloth, auto, 8 hole alloys, split rear seat, rear head restraints, adjustable steer column, remote locking, 11,300 miles (L) £24,995
190E 2.0 91 Signal Red, black cloth auto, electric sunroof/windows, 8 hole alloys, 30,400 miles (H) £13,995
190E 2.6 89 Smoke Silver Met. cream cloth, auto, air con., 43,100 miles (G) £14,295
190E 2.6 92 Blue/Black Met. black sport cloth, auto, alloys, 45,500 miles (J) £16,995
190 Diesel 2.0 92 Beryl Met. light brown cloth, 5 speed, electric sunroof/front windows, 23,100 miles. (K) £16,995
190 Diesel 2.5 92 Brilliant Silver Met. grey cloth, 5 speed, rear head restraints, 25,900 miles. (K) £17,995
E200 94 Midnight Blue, grey cloth, 5 speed, electric sunroof/front windows, 24,150 miles (L) £19,495
E200 94 Smoke Silver Met. black cloth, auto, electric sunroof/front windows, 15,600 miles. (L) £23,495
300E 92 Impala Met. cream cloth, alloys, Walnut, 37,150 miles. (J) £21,995
300E 92 Smoke Silver Met. cream sport cloth, air con., walnut, sportline suspension, 8 hole alloys, 22,950 miles. (K) £26,495
300CE 92 Blue/Black Met. mushroom leather, air con., alloys, cruise, walnut, 29,200 miles (K) £31,995
E220 Estate 94 Brilliant Silver Met. grey cloth auto, walnut, cruise, 3rd row seats, infra red locking, 5,200 miles (M) £29,995
E300 Diesel Estate 94 Polar White, blue cloth, 3rd row seats, walnut, cruise, 17,200 miles (L) £30,995
300SE 90 Astral Silver Met. grey leather, air con., alloys, cruise, driver airbag, 50,750 miles. (G) £18,495
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93L 190E 1.8LE Auto esrnws, 8 h.a.s.	18T £17,950	94L E220 Auto Met 2 air-bags	11T £24,950	92K 230TE Auto Met a.c rs	24T £24,950
91J 190E 2.0 Auto est. ews	25T £15,950			93L E220T Auto rs esr	3T £26,950
92J 190E 2.0 Met sr elws als far	15T £13,950			94L E280T a/c hide esr 8 h alloys	10T £35,950
93L 190E 2.0LE Auto esr. ews	16T £19,950			93K 220CE hide esr 8 h alloys rhr	24T £28,950
90H 190E 2.6 Auto Met air far	21T £18,950			89G 500SEC full spec	44T £27,950
93K 190E 2.6 Auto Met hide air	18T £20,950			90H 500SEL high spec	54T £24,950
94L C180 Elegance Auto Met	7T £21,450			94L S280 Met hide clim 8 h alloys	14T £41,950
94M C200 Sport Auto Met rhr	4T £23,950			93K 400SE Met hide clim	24T £46,950
94M C280 Elegance v.high spec	9T £35,950	94M E220 Auto esr esr	1T £27,950	92J 500SE Met hide 8 h alloys	40T £42,950
92J 230E Auto Met esr ews abs	21T £20,950	94M E280 Met esr	1T £29,950	87E 300SL Met rs cc	63T £19,950
92K 230E Auto Met esr ews.	10T £21,950	93L E320 AMG a/c hide	20T £33,950	94L SL320 Met hide clim rs	6T £56,950

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93K 300SL B/black, lthr, e/sts, a/bags	£47,995	87E 230E Petrol blue, auto, lkr, esr	£9,995
88F 300SL Smoke Silver, auto, alloys	£21,995	94M C280 AMG Sport Silver, auto, air	£34,995
94L E320 Cab Met, hide, air, alloys	£47,995	94M C250D Ele Silver, auto, otg, met	£25,995
92K 300CE 24V Tmline B/black, air, lthr	£38,995	94L C250D Ele Pearl, auto, alarm	£23,995
92K 230CE Met, hide, walnut, alloys	£27,995	94M C200 Class Cmpt, auto, air, ebw	£22,995
91J 300TE White, auto, air, bmr, esr	£24,995	94L C250D Class. White, auto, esr	£21,995
94M E280T B/black, hide, air, auto	£36,995	94L C180 Ele B/bl, auto, anti-theft	£21,995
94L E220T Black, auto, rfs, esr	£28,995	94L C180 Ele Pearl, auto, anti-theft	£21,995
90H 230TE Met, hide, auto, rfs	£19,995	94L C180 Ele Dk Bl, auto, anti-theft	£21,995
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94M	C180 Elegance 5 Spd drs, mec, CD	5T	£20,995
94M	C250D Elegance Auto met, els, dr, esr, ew, airbag	6T	£25,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto met, drc, airbag, esr, ew, abs	7T	£21,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto esr, ew, irl, dst	12T	£21,995
93L	C220 Classic 5 Spd esr, ew, otg, rhr, fca, alls, dst	16T	£21,995
93K	190E 2.6 Auto met, airbag, esr, ew, abs, rhr, fca	50T	£15,995
93K	190E 1.8LE Auto met, esr, ew, 8 hole, wal, dst	21T	£17,995
93K	190E 1.8 LE Auto met, wal, esr, ew, 8 holes, dst	45T	£16,995
91H	190D 2.0 5 Speed dst	39T	£12,995
92J	200E Auto met, a/c, lsew, alls, abs, esr, ew, abs	34T	DUE
94L	E220 Auto met, esr, ew, fca, irl, airbag, slm, dst	13T	£24,995
94L	E220 5 Speed met, lsx, dia bag, str, bew, dst	10T	£23,995
93L	E220 Auto met, rhr, wal, dst, alarm, esr, ew	14T	£24,995
92K	280E Auto met, lsx, 8 holes, otg, dst	20T	£24,995
92K	300E Auto met, hide, sportline, 8 holes, wal, dst	43T	£25,995
91H	300E 24V Auto met, hide, alloys, wal, a/c, dr, bew	57T	£23,995
90H	300D met, auto, ww, dst	36T	£19,995
94L	E280 Auto met, airbags, wal, dst	10T	£29,995
93L	E300D Auto met, 8h, rhr, dst, esr, ew, abs, a/b	15T	£26,995
92K	230 Test Auto met, esr, ew, abs, ds, 8h, fca, wal, dst	46T	£21,995
94L	E220 Coupe Auto met, airbag, 8 h, wal, dr, fca, dst	10T	£30,995
94M	E220 Coupe Auto met, 8h, low susp, wal, rhr, cd	5T	£31,995
91H	230CE Auto mtn, hide, air, alloys	30T	£23,995
90H	300CE 24V met, hide, air, sportline	15T	£28,995
93K	320CE Auto met, hide, air con, 8 holes, rst	32T	£35,995
93K	320 Cabriolet 5Spd Auto Sportline + 8 h, wal	12T	£42,995
92K	300SE Auto met, alloys, esr, ew, wal, dr, otg	35T	£23,995
94L	SL280 Auto met, hide, elseat, 8 holes, CD	11T	£49,995
91H	500SL Auto met, hide, esr, elseat, air con, dst	33T	£50,995
90G	420SEC Auto met, hide, els, cc, aircon, alls, dst	55T	£24,995
93L	S500 Limo Auto met, hide, 8 holes, wgs, cd, els	6T	£59,995

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89G	190 Auto Midnight, esr, lsr, rhr	25T	£11,495
92J	190E Auto Signal, esr, elw, elcass	31T	£13,995
93L	190LE Auto Azzuro blue, 8sw, rhr, lsr	10T	£16,495
94M	C180 Auto Elegance Black, cc, alarm	6T	£21,995
93L	C220 Auto Sport Silver, hide, rhr, gsr, a/c, alls	19T	£27,495
94L	C220 Auto Sport Silver, hide, alloys, rhr	7T	£28,995
92K	230TE Auto Silver, elkool, lsr, ew, ww	5T	£23,995
95M	E220C Onyx grey, hide, wfw, 17" AMG Alloys, a/c	1T	£38,995
94M	E220 Coupe Brilliant, hide, sfline, 8sw, ww, ads	2T	£35,495
94L	E220T Auto White, rls, esr, ew, alarm, alloys	11T	£26,995
94L	220E Auto Black, e/kool, lsr, rhr, ew	12T	£21,995
94M	E300T Diesel Auto Silver, rls, ww, alarm, cd	4T	£33,995
95M	E320 Auto Silver, esr, ww, btww, alloys	1T	£33,495
95M	E320 Coupe Blue black, hide, a/c, c/c, sfline, 8sw	1T	£44,995
93L	E320T Rosewood, 8sw, hide, a/c, els, rls	19T	£35,995
94M	E220 Cabriolet Auto Tourmaline, hide, sfline, 8sw	5T	£41,995
94L	E220 Cabriolet Auto Almandine/hide, a/c, 8sw	1T	£41,995
92J	300SL 24V Pearl blue, hide, a/c, rcs, 8sw, airbag	20T	£48,995
93L	SL280 Imperial/hide, els, alloys, r/cassette	13T	£48,995
94L	SL320 Black, hide, rcs, 8sw, c/c, c/c	19T	£56,995
90H	300SL Almandine, hide, e/c, rcs, alloys	22T	DUE IN
91J	500SL Pearl grey, hide, a/c, rcs, 8sw, hls, asr	27T	£32,995
94L	SL500 Imperial, hide, climate, c/c, 8sw, rcs	21T	£58,995
94L	SL500 Brilliant, hide, c/c, 8sw, rcs, cc	8T	£69,995
94L	SL500 Blue black, hide, c/c, 8sw, rcs, cc, cd	12T	£58,995
92J	600SE Nautic, hide, c/c, c/c, hls, 8sw, CD	33T	£42,995
93L	500SEC Bornite, hide, 8sw, c/c, els, cc	28T	P.O.A.
92L	S500 Coupe Blue black, hide, 8sw, c/c, c/c, els	2T	P.O.A.
94L	500SEC Silver, hide, alloys, c/c, els, c/c	16T	P.O.A.
94L	S500 Coupe Nautic, hide, 8sw, asr, c/c, c/c, hls	7T	P.O.A.
93K	600SL B/black, hide, 8sw, c/c, ads, asr, twin airbags	8T	P.O.A.

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91H	190E Auto met, alloys, abs, b/s, dst	35T	£14,995
92J	190E 2.0 Auto met, abs, esr, dst	15T	£17,995
94L	C180 Elegance Auto rhr, bs, at, dst	5T	£21,995
94M	C180 Elegance hide, esr, pab, dst	6T	£22,995
93L	C250D Elegance met, dst	7T	£24,995
93L	200E Auto met, esr, ew, dst	24T	£21,995
93L	E220 Auto met, a/c, lsr, a/l, dst	12T	£26,495
94M	E220 Auto ww, rhr, 8h alloys, lsr, dst	12T	£26,995
92K	230E Auto met, esr, dst	27T	£21,995
93L	E250D Auto rhr, ww, lsr	19T	£24,495
94M	E280 Auto 5 Spd, met, btww, otg, ww, dst	5T	£29,995
94L	E280T Auto met, a/c, 8ta, els, rls, ww	20T	£31,995
89E	300E Auto hide, a/c, alloys, mm, dst	52T	£15,995
92J	300E Auto met, hide, a/c, ads, hls, duchatelet	52T	£24,995
92K	300E 24V Auto met, dst	31T	£26,995
93L	E320 Cab met, hide, ab x 2, cd	7T	£44,995
92K	280TE Auto met, esr, rls, bs, dst	31T	£22,995
93K	280TE Auto esr, lsw, dst	6T	£23,995
93K	220TE Auto ww, rls, dst	28T	£25,995
94L	E300D Auto met, hide, ww, hcn, a/c, dst	4T	£29,995
94M	E300D Auto met, a/c, ww, otg, hww, dst	4T	£29,995
92K	230CE Auto met, ads, 8h alloys, lsxb	31T	£27,495
92K	500SE met, hide, 15 ha, dst	27T	£47,995
89E	300SL rst, dst	36T	£23,995
94L	S500C met, 8h alloys, alarm	23T	£85,995
90G	500SEC met, hide, hls, hcs, full duchatelet	46T	£28,995
93L	600SEC met, hide, asr	17T	P.O.A.
92J	300SEL met, hide, 8h alloys, ads, dst	40T	£45,995
94L	SL600 met, hide, climate, rcs, alloys, cd	22T	£54,995
92J	500SL met, hide, rsd, asr, hls, a/c, 8h alloys	48T	£49,995
94M	S280 5 Speed Auto climate, cs alloys, dst	6T	£43,995

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90H	190 EVOLUTION II BLUE BLACK, BLACK HIDE	17T	£34,995
94L	C180 Esprit Imp. red, flame red cloth, esr, efw	14T	£19,495
93L	C180 Elegance Auto Rosewood	12T	£20,995
93L	C180 Elegance Auto Blue black, Inka red locking	18T	£21,995
94M	C180 Elegance Auto Imp red, grey cloth, rhr, dc	3T	£22,495
94M	C200 Elegance Auto White, grey cloth, egsr, dc	10T	£23,995
93L	C220 Classic Auto Midnight blue, grey cloth, esr	17T	£22,995
94L	C220D Esprit Auto Almandine, esr, efw, obr	10T	£21,995
93L	C220 Sport Auto Silver, hide, full AMG, 17" aw	15T	£31,995
94M	C250D Classic Auto Imperial red, high spec	11T	£22,995
93L	190E 2.0 Malachite, grey cloth, sfr, efw, ds, al	22T	£17,995
91J	190E 2.6 Auto Pearl grey, grey cloth	65T	£14,995
87E	190E Auto Pine green air con, abs, esr, ew	49T	£ 9,995
94L	E200 Auto Imperial red, grey cloth, esr, efw	14T	£21,995
93L	E220 Auto Brilliant Silver, rhr, lsr	24T	£22,995
94L	E220 Auto Blue black, air con, rhr, ww	9T	£25,995
94M	E220 Auto Brilliant silver, full duchatelet bodystyling	10T	£28,995
94L	E220 Cabriolet B/black, mushroom hide, 8sw	1T	£36,995
94L	E250D Auto Smoke silver, mush.cloth, ww, rhr	20T	£22,995
93L	E280 Smoke Silver, black hide, 8 sw, efs, ww	13T	£29,995
92K	260E Smoke silver, black tex, 8 sw, cc, rhr, otg	23T	£22,995
92K	300E Auto Nautic blue, cream hide, ww, asr	28T	£24,995
91J	300D Blue Barolo red, cream cloth, asr	39T	£19,995
94L	E300D Auto Nautic blue, cloth, air bag, rhr	28T	£25,995
91J	200TE Auto Midnight blue, grey cloth, rls, esr	36T	£19,995
93L	E280 Estate Auto Almandine, rls, esr, ew	18T	£25,995
91J	300TE 24V Nautic Blue, grey cloth, rls, ads, aw	52T	£22,995
93K	230CE Blue black, grey hide, 8sw	18T	£27,995
92K	320CE Signal red, cream hide, air con, 5Spd, aw	37T	£33,995
88F	380SE Blue black, grey velour, cc, asr, els	41T	£16,995
93K	300SL Signal red, cream hide, a/c, rcs, 8sw	14T	£47,995
94M	SL320 Blue black, hide, climate, 8h alls, rcs, hls	1T	£61,995
93K	500SEL Smoke silver, mirror hide, adsm, 8sw	15T	£51,995

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92 (K)	500SL Signal Red, Cream Hide, ASR, Twin Airbags, A/C, Cruise, R/Seats	28T	£55,995
91 (H)	500SL Nautic Blue, Grey Hide, Driver's Airbag, A/C, R/Seats	41T	£46,995
94 (M)	E320 Coupe Silver, Grey Hide, Auto, Twin A/Bags, 8 Hole Alloys, ISV, OATG	11T	£42,995
94 (L)	E220 Smoke Silver, Mushroom Cloth, Auto, Twin Airbags, RHR, Walnut, FAR	11T	£23,995
93 (L)	E220 Polar White, Grey Cloth, Auto, Stereo	10T	£22,995
94 (L)	C220 Elegance Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Alarm	15T	£23,500
93 (L)	C220 Elegance Rosewood, Mushroom Cloth, Auto, Stereo	4T	£23,995
94 (M)	C200 Elegance Imperial Red, Grey Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo	18T	£23,500
91 (H)	190E 2.0 Almandine Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, ABS, E/Windows & Sunroof	30T	£13,995
93 (L)	190E 1.8 Signal Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, ABS, Airbag	24T	£15,995
93 (L)	190E 1.8 Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, Airbag, ABS, Sunroof, FEW, Alarm	20T	£15,995
93L	SL320 Imperial Red, Cream Hide, Rear Seats, 5 Speed Auto	11T	£63,995
93L	S280 Midnight Blue, Cream Hide, Climate Control	11T	£39,995
93K	300CE Pearl Blue, Cream Hide, Air Conditioning	11T	£29,995
92J	300CE Silver, Black Hide, 8 Hole Alloys, Sportline	19T	£32,995
94L	E320 Blue Black, Cream Hide, A/Con, 5 Speed Auto, Full Body Kit	16T	£29,995
92K	280E Smoke Silver, Cream Cloth, Stereo	17T	£25,995
91H	260E Anthracite, Grey Cloth, Stereo, Alloys	29T	£22,995
93L	300TD Pearl Grey, Black Cloth, Rear Seats	36T	£18,995
94M	E280T Almandine, Grey Cloth, A/Con, R/Seats, 8 Hole Alloys, Stereo	17T	£26,995
93K	280TE Almandine, Cream Hide, 5 Speed Auto, ASD, 8 Hole Alls, EDS	7T	£35,995
93L	C220 Sport Silver, Black Cloth, Auto, ERW, FAR	28T	£27,995
94L	C220 Classic Auto, Imperial, Cream, OTG, ESR, 4EW, Stereo, Alarm	18T	£24,995
94L	C180 Sport Auto, Blue Black, Black Cloth, Stereo	14T	£23,995
93K	190D 2.5 Auto, White, Black Cloth, ESR, EW, Stereo, Alloys	11T	£21,495
93K	190E 1.8 LE Auto, Rosso, Cream, 8 Hole Alloys, Walnut, Stereo	17T	£19,995
92K	190E 1.8 Barolo Red, Cream Cloth, ESR, Stereo	12T	£17,495
92K	190E 1.8 Auto, Pearl Blue, Cream Cloth, ESR, EFW	12T	£15,995
92K	190E 1.8 5 Speed Pearl Blue, Black Cloth, ESR	36T	£15,495
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You don't have to break the bank to buy a Rolls-Royce, Porsche or Bentley, reports **Vaughan Freeman**

Time to make your marque with a motoring Armani

Shopping for a car is all too often a frustrating round of drooling over and yearning for some exotic, rare and exciting automobile, whilst knowing full well you will have to settle for something tediously sensible.

But bids and sales at last month's Coys of Kensington sale of British and Continental touring cars show there are dozens of attractive, exotic and classic cars available at prices that haven't risen much for more than three years.

It is possible to buy a Rolls-Royce, Porsche, Bentley or even Ferrari, for the price of a slightly upmarket boring, bland and sensible new Euro-blob, and to spend your driving days in the motoring equivalent of an Armani or Chanel suit instead of the usual cosy woolly pullover.

Simon Kidston, head of the Coys auction department, said: "People no longer fear prices will fall further and believe that provided they get their purchase price back when they come to sell — ideally with the cost of running the car as well — they are prepared to take the plunge and buy."

At the Coys sale prices were healthily down to earth. A 1978 Mercedes-Benz 450SEL 6.9 litre went for £4,500, a 1966 Jaguar Mark II 3.8 for £4,000, a 1969 Aston Martin DB6 Coupe for £12,500, a 1964 Bentley S3 Continental for £15,500, and a Ferrari 250 GTE for £19,500.

Rolls-Royce specialists Frank Dale and Stepsons, of west London, have a number of cars for sale that at first thought might seem out of the reach of all but the richest of motorists. In fact, says the firm's James Crickmay, there are Rolls-Royces available for the price of a new — and sometimes even for the price of a used — Ford, Rover or Vauxhall.

He said: "It is fair to say that with the price of new cars as they are today, a used Rolls-Royce or Bentley is a sound alternative.

"It is possible to buy a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, or Bentley T, cars that were produced between 1966 and 1980, for as little as £10,000."

Specialist publications such as *Top Marques* regularly offer an array of "cheap" exotics, including a Silver Shadow II from £6,000, Bentleys from £23,000, Mercedes SL models from £8,000, Ferrari Mondial 3.2 for £24,000, an array of Porsche 911s from £8,000 to £9,000, and a small fleet of the beautifully-shaped Jaguar Mark II cars from £6,500.

Mr Crickmay said: "We have a 1975 Rolls-Royce Corniche Convertible with 58,000 miles that has been fully prepared and overhauled for £38,500 — a car that is identical to the model Rolls-Royce has only just stopped selling and which when production ceased was priced new at £160,000."

There are words of caution however. Mr Crickmay explained: "A buyer who doesn't have experience of older cars, and is buying something 20 years old or more, should buy from a dealer of repute.

"Buying a vehicle that appears cheap because it carries a low price might not prove a bargain in the long run, once problems begin to appear."

The golden rule is to purchase the best possible example of the marque you can afford, and have the car checked out by an expert. Buy if possible from a reputable dealer, and look for a car with a full service history which is supported by a warranty. Then — enjoy.

Driving in the lightweight division

IN THE *battle to beat the weighty car bulge, motor manufacturers have flirted heavily with high-tech solutions to the problem, such as composite plastic materials and aluminium, Vaughan Freeman writes.*

But cars could be up to 40 per cent lighter, with big savings in fuel consumption — and be just as strong — using new, stronger and thinner steels, and advanced adhesives rather than weighty welds, according to British Steel. The company is part of a consortium of 31 steel makers backing a Porsche Engineering project to build an all-steel car that will be barely half the weight of one built using today's steel technology.

The challenge to steel has been emphasised by the new aluminium-bodied Audi A8, claimed to be 40 per cent lighter than a steel car, with savings in fuel consumption and to be totally recyclable. But aluminium is more expensive and demands advanced assembly techniques.

The problem faced by all car makers is that even small cars are increasingly burdened by safety and environmental demands which have added weighty items such as catalytic converters, airbags, side-beams, anti-lock braking, and creature comforts such as air-conditioning.

Ford for instance is also working on the possibilities of an aluminium bodied car, but admits it will be at least 10 years before they might have one ready for production.

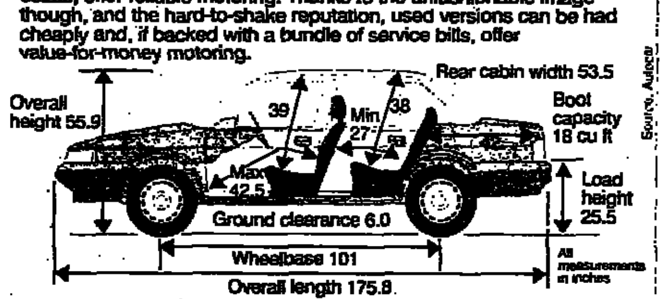
Meanwhile a recently-completed four-year, £42 million study by Renault concluded that aluminium/composite materials were still too expensive for high-volume cars, though their incorporation in niche models may come sooner rather than later.

Renault found it could make cars 10 per cent lighter using lightweight steel and existing production techniques, and that advanced adhesives would be 25 per cent lighter.

USED CAR BRIEF

ROVER MONTEGO

Early Montego models earned Rover the sort of reputation it has since successfully lived down: unreliable, noisy, windy, and plagued with niggling faults. More recent models, especially the versatile and roomy estate, offer reliable motoring. Thanks to the unfashionable image though, and the hard-to-shake reputation, used versions can be had cheaply and, if backed with a bundle of service bills, offer value-for-money motoring.



GOOD NEWS: The more recent the model the better the news. A buyer's delight and a seller's nightmare, so ideal if you are happy to buy one with a view to long-term ownership weighed against difficulty and loss of value when it's your turn to sell.

BAD NEWS: The colour-coded plastic bumpers hate bumps and crack easily. Early models especially suffered ill-fitting doors and seals creating wind noise, as well as unreliable engines. Wheel bearings prone to wear.

LOOK FOR: The estate models give lots of room, boast an integrated roof-rack and self-levelling suspension for an even ride. The Perkins of Peterborough designed MDi 2-litre diesel will return 50mpg on average and at 56mph will give an impressive 70mpg. The highly-equipped Countryman estate models offer best value.

TO AVOID: Walk away from early (1984 to 1988) models, dogged by poor quality build. The 1.3-litre engine gives abysmal performance, and the 2-litre petrol engine is also unlikely to boost the adrenalin. Anything with red seatbelts and an MG badge pretending to be a performance car.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA (0800 444777) on a 1990 Montego Countryman estate will cost a 22-year-old actor living in south London, with one speeding conviction, £3,864 a year fully comprehensive, a 22-year-old actress in the same area will pay £3,140. A 55-year-old in Winchester with 60 per cent no claims will pay £213 a year.

SAFETY RATING: Scores slightly below average in Government figures of crash survivability. However, Montego owners are likely to make up in cautious driving what the car might lack in robust construction.

PRICE RANGE: Around £2,000 for 1989 Montego saloon on 60,000 miles, £4,500 for 1991 H-reg turbo diesel DLX on 50,000 miles, £5,000 for 1991 J-reg 2.0GTi estate on 45,000 miles, and £9,000 for 1992 K-reg diesel estate on 25,000 miles.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £180; full exhaust £175; rear shock absorber £45; front brake pads £65; alternator £80; starter motor (exchange) £95; tyre, £45-60.

OVERALL: Even nearly-new Montegos (one dealer was recently offering an M-reg LXi estate for £10,995 against a price brand new of £12,880) represent big savings. Couple this with the frugality of the diesel, and the estate's load-carrying capacity, and the Montego is a car that has outlived its appalling reputation.

50 USED CARS FOR UNDER £7,000

MODEL Jan/Feb	PRICE Feb95	 Jan95	 Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4725	4725	0.00
Citroen AX 10 Debut 5dr	4950	4875	1.50
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	5175	5095	1.50
FSO Caro 1.5 GLXi 5dr	4650	4575	1.60
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	4525	4550	-0.50
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	4375	4295	1.80
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4995	4975	0.40
Ford Fiesta 1.1i 3dr	5795	5850	-0.90
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	5295	5275	0.40
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	3225	3095	4.00
Lada Samara 1500 GL 5dr	4575	4395	3.90
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5795	5795	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.1XN Graduate 3dr	6325	6125	3.20
Peugeot 205 1.1i Junior 3dr	6195	6095	1.60
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	5295	5375	-1.50
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback 5dr	6250	6325	-1.20
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4750	4750	0.00
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	6095	6095	0.00
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Diesel 3dr	6495	6375	1.80
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4875	4950	-1.50
Rover Metro 1.1 C 5dr	5375	5425	-0.90
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	6295	6395	-1.60
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	6395	6395	0.00
Seat Ibiza 1.3 CL 3dr	5925	5825	1.70
Skoda Favorit GLXi 5dr	5295	5195	1.90
Skoda Favorit GLXi Estate	5695	5595	1.70
Subaru Vivio GLi 4WD 5dr	5125	5150	-0.50
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6875	6750	1.80
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Merit 3dr	5925	5995	-1.20
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6595	6575	0.30
Vauxhall Polo 1.0 Genesis coupe 3dr	6825	6695	1.90
Vauxhall Polo 1.3 CL coupe 3dr	6695	6575	1.80
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5925	5895	0.50
Citroen ZX 1.4 Reflex 5dr	6950	6925	0.40
Dacia Duster GLX Estate	4750	4795	-0.90
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSe 3dr	6275	6175	1.60
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	6175	6095	1.30
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 3dr	6150	6150	0.00
Fiat Tempra 1.6ie S 4dr	6650	6725	-1.10
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6895	6950	-0.80
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	6875	6950	-1.10
Kia Pride 1.3 LX 5dr	5175	5175	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 3dr	6725	6750	-0.40
Seat Toledo 1.6 CLi 5dr	6675	6575	1.50
Subaru Justy Si 3dr	6595	6595	0.00
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5950	5875	1.30
Citroen AX 1.1 Forte	5595	5495	1.80
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3950	3895	1.40
Ford Fiesta 1.8 L Diesel 3dr	6650	6625	0.40
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	6425	6495	-1.00

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices
*HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by **CAP Nationwide Motor Research.***

PEOPLE-CARRIERS or multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) are the latest victims of over-supply in the used market.

Market analysts are finding there are not enough customers for the big vehicles, such as the Toyota Previa, which can seat up to seven. The position is likely to worsen with a series of new models soon to come to Britain from Peugeot, Fiat, Citroen, Chrysler and Ford.

Andrew Wilkinson, editorial director at CAP Motor Research, says that MPVs, like diesels, held strong prices so long as demand outstripped supply, but that has recently changed radically.

"Anyone looking to buy a used diesel car or MPV is in luck, though those selling this month are not going to be so happy," he says.

With diesels, a glut is now hitting used prices hard. Cars that once attracted premium prices are now having trouble finding buyers.

There is also little demand for high-spec diesels when buyers clearly want fuel economy and not luxury. "Prices are struggling," said Mr English.

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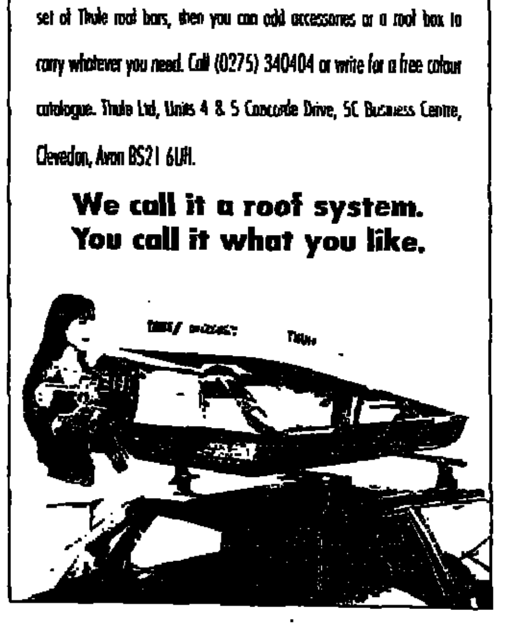

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- LII 228 - 340
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- JIW 3050 - 180
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ABP 76	564 BRR	DAV 66	2 EGA	76 GBM	HNV 124	KNJ 88	703 MBF	7 NO	PV 93	SNL 950
591 ABY	48 BSG	5 DBS	2 EGP	GBV 33	HOS 637	1391 KO	232 MDT	NOR 83	6513 PW	648 SPE
802 ACA	BSK 156	449 DCG	5 EH	GDA 592	HP 8374	10 KOO	MEL 2	NPV 773	PWP 163	SPM 95
283 ADW	17 BTJ	DCS 17	EHJ 705	22 GDA	12 HR	382 KPJ	3436 MG	NRD 742	2 PY	6 SS
7 AE	221 BTJ	DCS 139	390 EHY	GEC 3	27 HRA	240 KPO	MHO 866	NRS 2	RA 7431	SS 114
224 AHO	813 BTP	1 DCV	234 EKK	11 GEW	555 HRH	60 KPO	MHP 1	NRV 880	RAM 8	STD 74
552 AHP	212 BTW	DD 17	EKM 1	GFJ 186	HT 12	5078 KR	MJY 924	111 NS	RAP 632	STO 585
AHT 99	388 BUP	2327 DD	8 EL	604 GFW	352 HTJ	KTG 154	7028 MK	554 NTD	RAY 697	SV 5078
810 AJU	BWE 487	796 DDE	648 ELO	GJ 8251	461 HTW	KTX 837	418 MKN	780 NTG	RCL 902	TAA 218
908 AKT	535 BWV	DDN 841	1 EMT	885 GJB	HVJ 716	56 KTT	9822 ML	9983 NU	RCN 449	TAK 6
1 ALN	70 BWV	470 DEL	EN 3	GJJ 884	764 HVO	KVD 320	635 MMK	NUS 834	RCT 61	TBC 162
6 AN	683 BY	DEM 2	960 ENN	GJK 88	HWH 331	360 KVO	MNT 19	37 NVO	RDN 385	23 TBF
ANG 384	CB 46	131 DER	423 EOP	GJN 687	HWM 19	157 KWD	99 MOC	OAO 237	REF 60	TBJ 785
318 ANX	679 CBD	DES 29	EPC 217	GKE 687	35 HYP	KWN 1	111 MOE	OCO 20	RFL 44	TDD 513
1924 AO	CCV 849	4014 DF	439 ERH	696 GKT	JB 3480	670 KVD	11 MOE	OF 9311	RHH 47	11 TED
417 APF	5484 CD	826 DFO	EU 4293	3 GLA	JBJ 452	750 L	1 MRX	OHR 535	RHR 300	616 TES
33 ARK	CDC 280	782 DFK	EV 2993	300 GLK	500 JD	L 2	253 MTA	ONG 1	RL 7648	TGR 351
343 AVK	CDR 858	DGV 86	7653 EV	83 GLM	25 JD	780 LAA	MTK 727	OO 5881	RLT 8	TJA 648
12 AWB	873 CDT	60 DHF	681 EVO	2 GLT	JDO 330	87 LBP	270 MTT	ORO 87	22 RM	TJH 794
233 AWT	CEM 463	DHG 54	EWB 80	681 GMU	260 JDV	781 LDE	8361 MU	OVV 1	RMR 377	TLW 1
866 AXT	768 CER	200 DHT	56 EWP	1 GNL	JEN 955	LEB 164	MU 47	PAM 400	RND 5	222 TOD
BBE 212	CFS 20	DJ 9375	9 EWV	GO 2713	86 JFJ	LEE 31	MUD 280	6 PAM	RNN 999	TP 9967
7 BCE	322 CGW	DJK 495	EYN 7	527 GPJ	JG 8302	LEN 277	MUF 861	828 PAU	4 ROB	859 TRB
BCF 66	CHC 780	DJW 3	57 FAL	GRN 868	JJ 277	LER 963	4979 MV	PBA 544	ROB 517	TRW 566
644 BCV	CHG 66	DLN 429	301 FBL	732 GTR	JJK 15	LFG 561	MVF 763	PCB 268	986 ROD	TSN 17
128 BDA	679 CHO	985 DMW	FCE 207	777 GVN	JKN 135	7568 LG	MWA 809	PDM 937	14 ROO	TUE 603
782 BDN	560 CKD	391 DNG	FEY 407	643 GVO	30 JM	39 LG	MWU 25	719 POV	ROY 940	UCH 31
726 BEA	96 CLJ	895 DNR	281 FFW	GWC 537	JM 6454	785 LHK	6048 MY	PEF 840	492 RPD	UHT 238
BEN 600	55 CLJ	137 DNU	FGK 131	531 GWJ	543 JOE	LHW 13	3853 NA	PEG 39	RPL 451	UMP 226
644 BEW	844 CLY	198 DON	FGR 705	GWL 40	682 JON	1 LJ	NBE 315	PEG 35	20 RRA	VAU 044
929 BGF	14 CNG	DPA 980	FH 77	GWV 27	8 JP	LJV 849	NBP 501	842 PEH	RRO 903	VE 4882
279 BGH	550 COA	893 DPT	7922 FH	2896 H	JPR 12	39 LKL	NCF 13	6116 PF	RRU 73	VGV 691
BGJ 821	369 COE	DR 8386	581 FJF	500 HAB	496 JRT	LLH 632	NCT 8	PFV 673	3 RS	91 VHW
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- MV 1277
- 3018 MW
- MWL 219
- MYC 73
- 5876 NA
- 8 NAE
- 100 NAU
- 6837 NB
- NCH 882
- 1 NDY
- 1165 NE
- NEG 805
- A17 NET
- 8238 NF
- NG 5031
- 522 NHT
- A11 NJH
- 1 NKY
- NKY 204
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- A11 NOD
- 17 NOO
- NOW 686
- A11 NSS
- 257 NTB
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- NV 68
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So what do you keep hidden in your boot?

Lynne Greenwood peeks into the motoring equivalent of the underwear drawer — and finds a few surprises

The motoring organisations are quick to issue advice on what drivers should keep in their cars as soon as snow falls or fog descends.

They suggest drivers pack warm clothes, a blanket, sleeping bag, spade, warm non-alcoholic drinks, energy foods and a torch.

That is sensible; but how many drivers keep any of those items in the car? And what do they carry around with them instead?

We asked four to open their doors and boot-lids to reveal the contents.

Mrs Jacky Moreton-Deakin, 44, an architect and designer, drives a Land Rover Discovery TDi, ideal for three children aged 15, 12 and nine, one Dalmatian and assorted riding gear for five horses. That, however, is not all. Inside the tailgate is tidy — a piece of carpet to stop her dog Ming sliding around, a pair of wellies, a broken umbrella and a saddle girth.

Inside the car is different. "It's a bit like asking to look through someone's underwear drawer," she says. There's a riding hat, riding gloves, herbal dusting powder for horses' wounds, cheque book, can of Coke, fabric samples, pink plastic hedgehog for the dog, an office file and a wheelbrace. On the floor lies a bottle of Coco Chanel perfume, "for when the smell of horses or wet dog becomes overwhelming"

In the front, alongside sunglasses, filofax, tissues, pen, mobile phone and keys, is a make-up bag, a Parker pen and a disposable camera (recommended by insurers as useful after an accident). Above the visor, an air-freshener and keys for an apartment in France.

The store box is a treasure trove of tapes, raffle tickets, brooches and badges, plus a syringe-like drench for irrigating horses' wounds.

HOWARD BARLOW

Student Andrew Pimbley: documents, one glove and broken bulbs

"Every few weeks I tidy it out and start again," says Jacky. Living high in the Pennines in West Yorkshire, she is used to driving in difficult conditions. "It's a four-wheel-drive and quite robust, so if the weather was really bad, I'd be confident of getting through."

Steve Lord, 42, director of a Manchester design consultancy, drives a black two-seat Nissan 300 ZX with a 3-litre engine. "It's an extension of me, a bit aggressive," he says. "But I can't stand anything inside the car, except perhaps a passenger. It's immaculate."

His unopened manual and set of A to Zs are in the glove compartment, along with a small torch. The CDs — from classical to Crash Test Dummies — fit in the arm rest, which is also used for chewing gum wrappers. "The last time I opened the rest, three wrappers fell out," he says. "I had to stop the car and put them in a bin." Under one visor are two pairs of sunglasses; under the other, 16 car park tickets.

The season determines the contents of the small boot. At the moment it is badminton and soccer kit; in summer, a cricket bag, tennis racquet and single golf iron and ball fill the space. Permanently in there is a pair of miniature binoculars for walks and bird watching, a Nikon camera, an umbrella which doubles as a shooting stick and a faded ten-year-old baseball cap.

"If the car breaks down, I sit and wait for the RAC," he says. "What's under the bonnet is a mystery to me."

Sixth-former Andrew Pimbley, 18, can only reach the boot of his eight-year-old Ford Sierra 1.6 via the back seat, as the lock is jammed. The only items in there are the car documents, one blue glove and a box of replacement car bulbs, all broken. The back ledge is littered with Liverpool night club "flyers".

"I use the car for school every day, taking my brother and a friend, and at night for going out," says Andrew.

On the back seat is a rugby ball, a cushion, a menu from an Italian restaurant, a fake mobile phone, an old exam paper, empty crisp and sweet packets, one school sock and a sprig of mistletoe, "well used at Christmas."

JOHN HOULIHAN

Director Steve Lord: sports equipment, binoculars and a camera

A Christmas card has a New Year's Day order for food for five from McDonald's scribbled on the back. In the front, an electric razor — "in case I'm looking a bit scruffy" — a silver spoon used for eating Pot Noodles, a Thunderbirds air freshener, Swiss Army knife (used once to screw a visor back in place), cinema tickets, loose change, maps, baseball cap and rap and dance tapes.

Mrs Marian Pott, 66, a golf club treasurer, drives a six-year-old Mini Mayfair, whose boot is almost as clean now as when new. In there is just one spare pair of shoes.

Inside the car is the handbook, an umbrella, a carrier bag, duster and special window cloth. "Recently I've put a torch in there and a yellow poster with the word 'Help' on, given to me by a police crime prevention officer," says Mrs Pott.

As a member of her town's mayoress's committee, she may have a bag of tombola prizes in the car, too.

DR DASHBOARD

Taking a swipe at a dull chore

My car is filthy thanks to the winter weather but it seems too much hard work to wash it when it will just get dirty again. So why bother?

Simply because you need to see and be seen. Dirty lamps and windscreens make driving more hazardous. And a dirty car eventually means a rusty car, with paintwork that, instead of being shiny, starts to look like wartime camouflage.

So, why not simply use a car-wash every now and again?

Well, it's better than nothing. At least the car is getting a once-over, but there are a few flaws in the average car-wash.

Such as?

It does not reach all those important nooks and crannies and is a bit of a slap-it-on-all-over way of approaching the problem. Then there is the question of potential damage.

What? Can my car be damaged in a car-wash?

Only if you are unlucky or careless. Liz Forbes won £750 compensation when she got stuck in a car-wash with her sunroof open, so she was drenched. Stories of motorists losing aerials they forgot to retract are numerous and some drivers have even been into car-washes with luggage racks still attached. Result: a reasonable amount of mayhem and damage both for motorist and car-wash operator.

That seems warning enough. So where should I start?

At the top and work down. You need warm, soapy water. A proprietary cleaning agent is probably best in conjunction with a decent sponge or soft brush. Don't rub too vigorously or you could damage the paintwork.

Seems easy enough. Are there are any tricks worth knowing?

Take care to go around crevices which could be missed, such as the door and boot surrounds, which are prone to gathering dirt. Have a good look at the wheels, too, or they will become ingrained and virtually uncleanable.

What about the inside?

Often forgotten but just as important. The interior will be noticed by potential buyers when you come to sell the car, so ensure that all mats and seats are properly vacuumed and the dashboard is neat and tidy.

So then it is all over?

Sorry. At this time of year, a decent wax polish will provide a shine and protection from the water and rubbish which pelts the exterior every day. It is elbow-aching, but at least you know your car will be protected in the long run.

It all seems like a waste of a Sunday morning. Is there no other way?

Of course — but it can be costly.

Please tell. What is it?

Ignore the above and summon your children. Hand them buckets, sponges and polish. Take them to the car and pull up deckchair. Then read a copy of Car 95 while they do the job for a small consideration.

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THE TIMES ROAD TEST: Rover 100. Still the friendly old Metro, says **Kevin Eason**, motoring correspondent

Granny gets a good makeover

Putting the veteran Rover Metro through its third big facelift seems a bit like sending your granny to get her hair permed and a makeover in the hope of her making the finals of Miss World.

There are all the gorgeous young things in their new frocks parading around and there, at the end of the line, is Granny topped with a blue rinse and sheer stockings barely able to contain the varicose veins, and now calling herself the lovely Rosita.

Even a dimwit might spot the fact that Granny had been around a bit, new name or not. So it is no good Rover putting a new 100 badge on the boot of what is clearly the Metro, hoping that nobody will spot that the car has been around for 15 years, longer than most of its competitors in Europe.

But, with respect to grannies everywhere, many a good tune is played on an old fiddle. And if Grannies could get a makeover as convincing as the Metro's, they might just be in with a chance of wobbling the crown atop their perm.

The Metro, sorry Rover 100, might be positively venerable, but it has the freshness many a younger rival might envy. The new look is obvious because Rover has thrown out that rather bland, square-looking nose for the more rounded front with a mini-version of the Rover corporate grille. The rear is more noticeably Metro, although the big, moulded bumper gives the car an interesting chunky look.

Inside, the 100 is neat and comfy, but rear legroom could be a trial for anyone with ambitions to be more than a circus midget. The dashboard is clear as Rover has cleverly kept set the three spokes of the steering wheel low to allow maximum observation of the dials.

Rover is also one of the best around at using interior materials — the padded steering wheel is a pleasant tactile experience and the door and seat covers are bright and highly attractive.

But the revelation of a model, that effectively started its life within months of Margaret Thatcher becoming Prime Minister, is just how good it is to drive. Most small cars feel every bump in the road because they do not have enough length in the wheelbase to soften the ride: as soon as a front wheel hits a divot, there is a rear wheel coming on behind to give driver and passengers a double jolt. The 100's front suspension tells the rear suspension what is happening to try to keep the car level. It sounds complicated — and it is — but the result is that a ride in the 100 is not the bone-jarring journey it could be.

On the longest trip, the engine runs along happily

Turning into corners is a matter of hit and hope in some small cars, but the 100 is confident and sure-footed, barely disturbed by uneven road surfaces as it moves through bends.

I tried the 1.4-litre SLi version for a feel of the new Metro 100, and left the car more than pleasantly surprised. Rover's K-series engine, which can be transformed from one-litre sprite to 3.5-litre executive cruise power, has always been a winner — so much so that Ford tried to buy it during the 1980s. In the 100 body, the engine is brisk, quiet and sweet through an easy-to-use five-speed manual gearbox.

The 1.4-litre is wonderfully punchy, making it easy to forget you are driving such a small car. On the longest motorway trip, the engine romps away quite happily, untroubled by distance or speed and I reached destinations without any evidence of fatigue caused by boom, which, with many small models, can wear the driver thin at the eardrums.

Acceleration is as swift as necessary — a driver with the heaviest right foot should be able to manage 30mpg quite easily — and that means spending only about £15 to fill the 7.8-gallon tank and power the 100 for more than 200 miles.

Yet there are still moments that tell you this is an old car brilliantly dressed up as something new. Filling the petrol tank, for example, requires a watchful eye and Fred Astaire footwork. Instead of the petrol nozzle shutting off, the first sign the tank is full is the surge of petrol that splashes over the shoes of the unwary.

The fuel filler cap is also situated rather obviously in the middle of the car's offside with no cover or integral locking mechanism, a little at odds with the smooth bodywork and the clever alarm-immobiliser system, operated by remote control attached to the ignition key, which governs the rest of the car.

The driving position is also somewhat sit-up-and-beg, the steering wheel raked away from the driver, making turning an agricultural heave and push, even in such a small car.

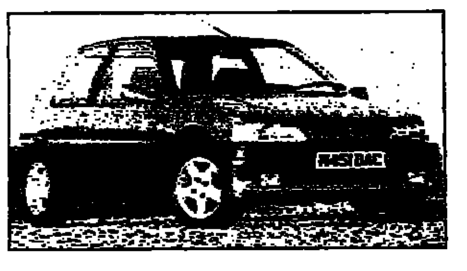
Despite that, the Rover 100 is a terrific little car, particularly for urban drivers who could probably expect as much as 40mpg.

Rover's comprehensive finance package plus cheap servicing and easy-to-reach dealers should help to push the 100's ratings up again. The 100 goes to show that Granny could still go out on the catwalk and look as good as the strutting younger models.

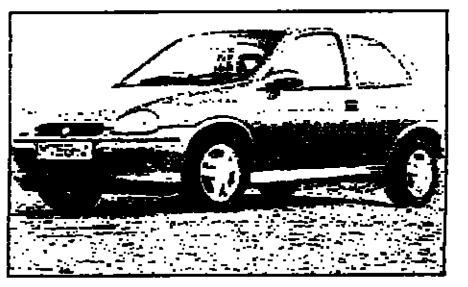
The Rover 114 SLi uses the K-series, four-cylinder engine for a top speed of 103mph and 35.3mpg urban fuel consumption. The standard £8,195 model, which is classed as insurance group 5, includes side-impact bars, alarm, immobiliser and central locking, removable sunroof and "lights on" buzzer. Driver's airbag is a £265 option.

THE ROVER AND ITS RIVALS

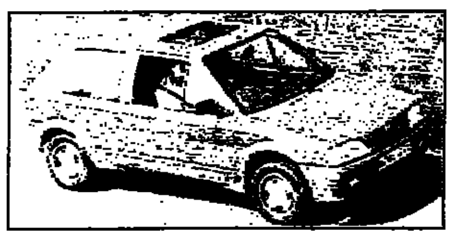
The millionth Metro rolls off the assembly line at Longbridge



PEUGEOT 106 1.4IXR
If the 106 is not the best in class, it must be near the top as a driver's car. Great performance: top speed 108mph, 0 to 60mph time of 11.4 seconds, plus urban fuel consumption of 35.3mpg. Price £8,595, insurance group 6.



VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4iLS
Looks fine but is a bit lumpy and uninteresting to drive. Still a good package for the town driver. Top speed 96mph, 0 to 60mph time of 14 seconds. Urban fuel consumption only 32.8mpg. Price £8,685, insurance group 4.



CITROEN AX 1.4I Forte
Cleverly designed and fun to drive, the AX has a top speed of 96mph. Its 0 to 60mph time of 10.9 seconds means it is not the zippiest, but urban fuel consumption is 35.3mpg. Price £8,860, insurance group 9.

'When the cars start to get older, they throw up problems that even the manufacturer does not understand. We have to spend hours to isolate the source.'

A modern motorist and his money are easily parted

There is a price to pay for the hi-tech advances of recent years, reports **Hilton Holloway**

Nobody would dispute that cars have improved in leaps and bounds over the past decade. For the most part they are faster, smoother, cleaner, better to drive and more reliable. After experiencing the advantages of, say, power steering or fuel injection, few would want to go back to bicep-bulging steering or the will-it, won't-it churning that typified many carburettor engines. There is, however, a price to pay — and many owners of older cars are beginning to count the cost of high-tech motoring.

Although up-market cars have used computer-controlled engine management systems for some time, the 1980s brought a flood of complex electronic-based features such as ABS braking, central locking, electric windows and automatic gearboxes to even the most down-to-earth hatchbacks. A sudden shift towards safety and environmental concerns at the end of the decade also added catalytic converters (made from expensive rare-earth metals) and airbags to increasingly sophisticated specifications.

All this user-friendly technology is fine in a new car, especially one that's company-owned, with the warranty shielding the driver from expensive trouble. A few years down the line, though, the private motorist is finding that vital components are failing, rendering the car potentially useless, and that main dealer parts prices are unacceptably high.

The anecdotal evidence is pretty conclusive. One Peugeot mechanic told me of a customer whose four-year-old 605 limo needed a complete replacement exhaust. The twin catalyst system cost more than £2,200, nearly 50 per cent of the value of the car. Apparently, the 605 driver was seriously considering scrapping the car, as without the new system the car wouldn't pass an MOT emissions test. Even the owners of Escorts, Fiestas and Metros will soon be facing big bills when the catalysed exhausts of their cars become due for replacement.

Other killer financial punches are common to nearly every high-spec car built since the mid-1980s. Engine and ABS brake management computers tend to be sealed and failure means new units are the only fix. A specialist in second-hand Jaguar parts says the numerous computers in the XJ40 series cars can prove extremely troublesome. "A new engine black box can cost £700, and we get a big demand for them, but the supply is limited."

One owner of a Renault 19 16v had his ABS unit replaced under warranty when the car was only eight months old. Thirteen months later it failed again, and because the ABS unit was out of warranty, he was presented with a bill for £1,350. Renault UK offered to pay half — it was only after the attentions of a national motoring magazine that it stumped up the full price.

BMW takes a dim view of older cars that have not been maintained in the dealer network. "We take a very strong goodwill policy towards expensive failures on three- to four-year-old cars with a full BMW history," said the company. "However, if a certain part is proving problematic, we will drop the price.

"The printed-circuit boards for older 3-series instrument panels are prone to failure, so we dropped the price from £135 to £40 on exchange. We have also started the Auto Tecnic centre in Croydon, operating at a reduced labour rate, for owners of older BMW's."

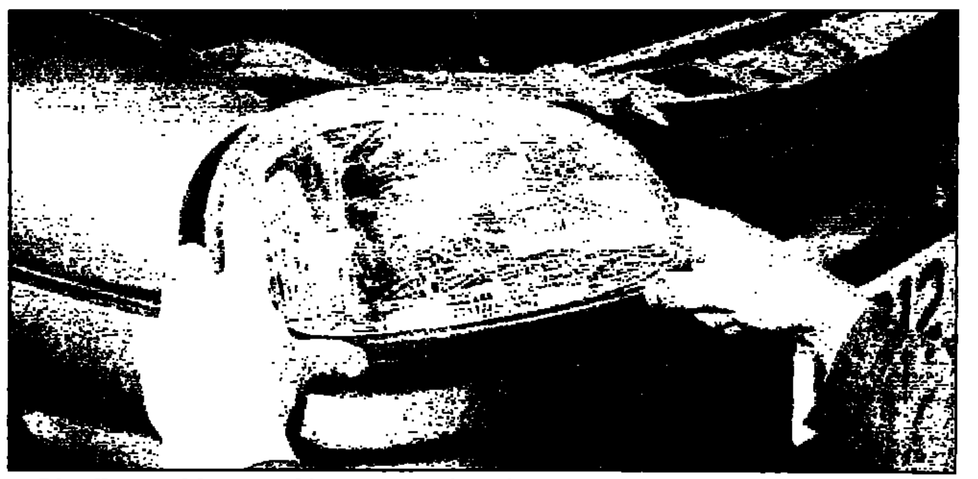
For many owners, independent experts are the only way to run a complex car relatively economically, having been driven away from main dealers by absurd parts' prices and labour rates. According to one independent Alfa Romeo specialist, it is the complexity of modern cars that proves a major hurdle to keeping them running smoothly. "When the cars start to get older, they throw up problems that even the manufacturer does not understand. We have to spend hours trying to isolate the source."

Some one-marque workshops have invested heavily in diagnostic equipment to keep older cars on the road, including one Saab servicing expert who has invested tens of thousands of pounds in diagnostic machines. He still finds, though, that his company has to run to keep up. "Manufacturers don't help because cars are continuously being modified under the skin. Wiring systems can completely change from one year to the next. We have to buy a new set of workshop manuals every year. Even something simple like a hazard warning light switch has become a sealed, and no doubt expensive, electronic box."

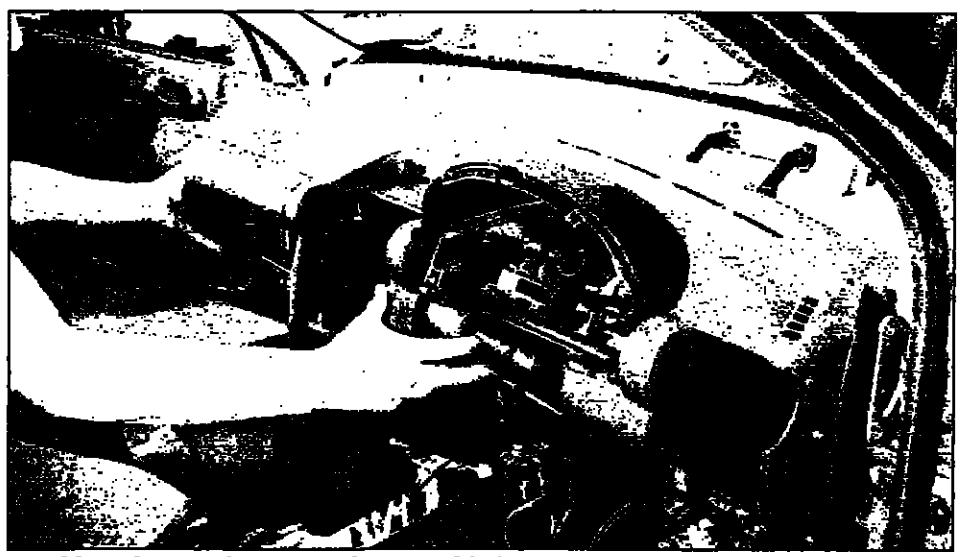
Many specialists source their own parts to cut costs. One Essex-based Audi breaker can offer genuine rear brake callipers for just £99 each, a big saving on the official Audi price of above £300. Audi's response is not entirely convincing. "In 1994 we reduced the cost of 744 major service items, such as clutches, exhausts and panels, by an average of 22 per cent. We recognise that grey imports are coming in, but installing them with non-franchised labour destroys the parts warranty," said the company. Any failure associated with the replacement part would also be outside the warranty.

Despite the rather weak protestations of the big carmakers, little is being done to make the ownership of one of the millions of highly specified company cars sold every year into a viable long-term private bet. Were it not for the small one-marque experts, many cars would have already become economically unfeasible.

As cars become more complex, the situation is likely to worsen, unless manufacturers slash the cost of spares. After all, much is made of the recyclability of modern cars — but just how environmentally friendly is it to send a five-year-old executive car to the scrapyard for the sake of an extortionately-priced exhaust?



Headlamps: bigger and better, though sealed units mean replacement is a costly business. A new headlamp for a Vauxhall Senator costs £260, plus fitting



Dashboards: complex electronics mean big labour bills. A printed-circuit board for a BMW 535i costs about £500, and they are prone to failure

TEN TENDER SPOTS

1. **Exhaust systems:** In general, the more expensive the car and the larger the engine, the more costly it will be. Most cars made after 1989 will have catalyst-equipped exhausts which are vastly more expensive to replace.
* Peugeot 605 3.0 V6, with twin-catalyst system. A design fault can often mean total replacement is needed early in the car's life. Cost at a Peugeot dealership: £2,200-plus, fitted.

2. **ABS systems:** Sought-after safety option but a few years down the line problems could cause a major impact on the wallet. The components (brain, master cylinder, pump and wheel sensors) are all prone to failure. An ABS function failure, even if the brakes still work, means an MOT failure.
* Saab 9000 ABS master cylinder: £1,900, plus fitting costs.

3. **Engine management brain:** The demands of emissions regulations and the introduction of catalysts have made Electronic Control Units (ECUs) far more complex — and costly. As ECUs tend to be sealed units, repair is usually impossible.
* BMW 5-series ECU: up to £700, plus fitting.

4. **Automatic gearboxes:** Many have proved to be unreliable as the miles rack up, and complex electronic management doesn't help. Some, such as the ZF units used by Saab in the 9000, can only be repaired with expensive factory-supplied spares.
* Replacement Saab 9000 auto gearbox: £1,800-plus.

5. **Electronically-controlled heaters:** Many up-market cars are fitted with push-button heater systems, the various air-directing flaps being moved by stepper motors. If a stepper motor fails, the system jams. The only solution is to remove the dashboard and replace the motor.
* Alfa Romeo 164 heater stepper motor: £100, plus up to eight hours labour for fitting.

6. **Headlamps:** Styling considerations and complex computer-designed lenses have made them bigger, though better aerodynamics make them more vulnerable to attack from debris. Forthcoming regulations in some European Union countries will make electronic height adjustment compulsory, further adding to cost. Damaged lamps can mean an MOT failure.
*Vauxhall Senator headlamp: £260, plus fitting.

7. **Nose and tail cones:** It seems ridiculous to call the complex plastic mouldings that encase the front and back of modern cars bumpers, their fragile construction making them anything but. They can, though, be instrumental in providing efficient cooling and stable aerodynamics.
* Price varies widely, but some sports saloon bumpers can cost nearly £1,000 each to replace and repaint.

8. **Power-steering rack:** Although racks and power steering pumps tend to be pretty reliable, failure can be costly to rectify, particularly on executive or rarer Japanese cars.
* A new steering rack for a Jaguar XJ40 is about £700, plus fitting.

9. **Dashboard electronics:** Computers, service indicators and other elctronic units control vital functions such as the temperature and fuel gauges. The printed-circuit boards (PCBs) used in the BMW 5-series (1988 onwards) are proving unreliable, and are in great demand second hand.
* PCB for a BMW 535i costs about £500 from a main dealer.

10. **Power accessories:** Even the most basic rep car is usually fitted with electrically-powered goodies, including windows, sunroof, central locking and mirrors. Trouble will eventually be in store as switches fail, motors burn out and mechanisms seize.
* A sunroof mechanism for a mid-range Renault costs more than £400, excluding labour.

* *Prices quoted are approximate main dealer cost*

هكذا من الاصل

Samantha Bond, 007's latest lady, shakes and stirs **Andrew Pierce**

'Male aggression and mobile telephones drive me mad'

Samantha Bond is the latest woman in the life of 007, Britain's best-known secret agent. She is Miss Moneypenny, long-suffering secretary to M the head of the Secret Service. Pierce Brosnan, the new James Bond, is on location in some of the most exotic spots in the world. But Miss Bond, star of the BBC television series, *Tears before Bedtime* and an acclaimed Shakespearian actress, will be confined to a film set in Watford. She drives a Panda.

How did you first learn to drive?

When I was playing Tweedle Dee in pantomime in Southampton. I used to have a lesson at 8.45am. My instructor became part of the family. He was frequently downstairs making me coffee while my flatmates tried to rouse me from my slumbers. I passed first time.

What was your first car?

She was an elderly blue Triumph, called Henrietta. She only lived about six months.

What car do you drive now and why?

The Vicar: a saintly five-year-old white Panda. I bought it new after I had done *The Ginger Tree* a four-part serial set in Japan on BBC television. You can park it on a matchbox, its economical, comfortable, and green.

Do you enjoy driving?

Yes. Particularly on my own. Nobody can get at me. No children, husband or producers. It also gives me a chance to learn my lines while I am behind the wheel. I have done some of my best performances in the car!

STEERING COLUMN

What is your dream car?

A navy blue sporty BMW convertible automatic.

What is your most hated car?

Any car with black windows which you cannot see through. They are terrifying and you expect to be shot at any minute.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Lightly tapping my brake pedal in time with the music. I never tap my foot enough to come to a juddering halt but just enough to annoy the person behind me.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Male aggression and mobile telephones. Seeing someone driving lousily because he is talking on the phone drives me mad. I am the woman who drives up slowly behind them, hooting my horn loudly, so they have to stop talking.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I applied a full make-up while driving across London in the rush hour in the dark. I was behind the wheel going from Hampstead to Hampton to do a poems and pints evening for the Labour party.

What do you listen to in the car?

I listen to Radio 4. I am a completely undiscerning listener. When the children, Mollie and Tom, are in the car with me we sing along to the *Grand Old Duke of York* or *Oranges and Lemons*. That's when the foot tapping starts.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I would invest in our magnificent railway network. If the Government privatises it I would bring it straight back into public ownership. I would also ban mobile telephones in cars and trains.

What is your favourite/most hated car ad?

I like the one which shows a man ironing his jeans and folding his pyjamas which dismisses any man, who enjoys such domestic chores, as unlikely to be a Vauxhall Tigra owner.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Samantha Bond and the Vicar: "You can park it on a matchbox"

Will Edwyn-Jones of Saab

Saab turns 900 into a smoke-free car zone

SMOKERS, already alienated from restaurants, flights and underground trains, are beginning to run out of road (Kevin Eason writes).

Drivers are being warned that smoking at the wheel could wipe hundreds of pounds off the resale value of their cars. Fleet Management Services, which runs 14,000 company cars, says buyers will turn up their noses at models that smell of cigarettes and are covered in nicotine stains and burned seats.

Smoking in the car has long been under attack from insurance companies, and now Saab has become the first company to introduce a no-smoker's car, a basic 900 at under £14,000 which comes with everything — except an ashtray and cigar lighter. Will Edwyn-Jones, Saab Great Britain's managing director, says: "Most people now are non-smokers, so why should they have to pay for equipment they do not need?" Alan Brain, used vehicle marketing director of FMS, based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, insists that smoking is now banned in every car delivered to the company fleet.

"We need extreme measures to remove the after-effects of tobacco when a car is ready for resale, if it is to maximise its second-hand value," he says.

Ken Rogers on some fishy jobs in the motoring pool

The funny side of life as a crash-test dummy

Nowadays, if you join the queue outside any car maker's personnel department you find robots outnumber people. Probably, the only other human in the line has a chequered disc stuck on the side of his head, hoping to pass himself off as a crash-test dummy.

But, just as every symphony orchestra needs its triangle player, so the motor industry has always had a place for people who have skills that no robot could ever acquire. For example, at Volkswagen's huge Wolfsburg factory, I once met such a person, making a living through a spin-off from the green revolution.

Just as miners once took caged canaries down the pit to test for dangerous gases, at Wolfsburg they keep kamikaze goldfish to test the purity of water recycled after thinning paint in the water-based paint plant. It passes through their aquarium on its way from the plant back to the river Aller.

A worker in VW overalls sauntered in, lifted the aquarium's hatch, and sprinkled goldfish-flakes on to the surface. He strolled off, confirming he spent the rest of his day watering the flowers in the executive offices using recycled water.

For many years, Reliant had a man whose job was to hold up the traffic on the A5, while three-wheeler chassis frames were pushed across to the assembly shop on the other side of the road.

Mick Hilton was a trainee apprentice at the factory back in the Sixties. "It was a busy road even then," he muses. "You had to be bloomin' quick."

At Carbodies taxi plant, in Coventry, every cab must comply with the legal turning circle requirement — 25 feet between kerbs. As sales director, Terry Fryer, explains, "Sometimes the linkage is set up slightly offset, which means a tighter turning circle on one or other lock. One driver's job is to circle the cab left and right, making sure it complies on both locks."

Believe it or not, Ford used to employ a man named Vic, who's job was to forge Jackie Stewart's signature on VIP invitations to golfing and clay-pigeon-shoot weekends at Gleneagles, using Jackie's letter-headed paper complete with the tartan-banded crash-hat crest.

Tanning and preparing hides suitable for car upholstery has the unwanted side-effect of making them look and smell like plastic. At companies such as Connolly Leather, which supplies skins to Jaguar and other top marques, there is a man who puts back the scent of leather and another who passes the skins through grooved rollers to give the grain. Different markets have their preferences when it comes to nuances of niff and texture of grain. For example, whereas British car buyers like their nostrils caressed by a strong aromatic cocktail of rich, heavily-grained leather, the Japanese go for smooth skin and subtle bouquet — beaujolais nouveau rather than robust claret.

My job is making sure the cones are all the same size
GED

In Osnabruck, Karmann, the specialist coachbuilders, have a man who spends his life inside Golf and Escort convertibles, as they go through a giant carwash. As water hits the car from all directions, he crawls around in the dark searching for hood leaks with a torch.

Then there always used to be someone at car factories whose job was to crawl inside the presses while they were switched off, to clean out the debris. If he failed to ensure exactly what time the shift came on, it could so easily be goodnight Vienna — or Longbridge.

I used to think that somewhere, tucked away in a rustic cottage, there was a little old man, hand-crafting the Spirit of Ecstasy mascot that graces the radiator of every Rolls-Royce. In the early days, reality was actually quite close to the fantasy. Individual mascots were supplied by its designer, Charles Sykes, from his flat, above Herbert Barder's furriers in Brompton Road, west London.

Nowadays, Rolls-Royce is as coy about the mascot as it is about brake horsepower figures. Its man says it is made "off-site" — but claims no robots are involved.

The "wacky job memorial award" must go to the Vauxhall pig man. In the war, with strict food rationing, Vauxhall kept 48 pigs on a plot at Luton.

"When pork was on the menu at the works canteen, the queues stretched around the block," muses Peter Vigor, then editor of Vauxhall's staff newspaper. But, he recalls that the pig man lived a solitary life. "When he came to collect his wages each week, people used to run away, because of his pervasive pig-pong."

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